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The Martlet

•Volume 35 Number 27 • ess of the University of Victoria • Thursday, March 21, 1996 •

ON THE SPOT

compiled by Andrew Lupton and Miko Ross

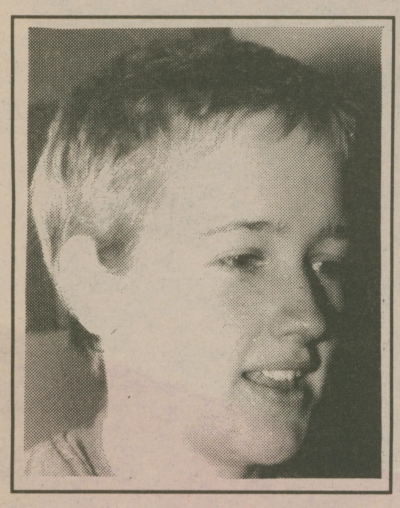
What do you think of the UVSS election results?

"I wanted to see Leigh Phillips elected. He was fighting for Fine Arts."

-Gwyneth McIntosh,
2nd year Theatre

"I was a little disappointed."

-Shyla Seller
3rd year English



"I'm afraid some of the people elected aren't so concerned with social issues."

-Julie Wright
3rd year English, Women's Studies and Fine Arts

"I'm surprised at the people who used the "Putting Students First" slogan. Shouldn't that be a given?"

- John Newman
4th year Arts and Sciences

U.V.S.S.

IT IS TIME TO GET INVOLVED

BY-ELECTION TO THE SENATE

As no nominations were received during the regular election period for Senate, a by-election is called for four full time students to Senate for terms commencing May 1, 1996 and ending April 30, 1997.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ONE FULL TIME STUDENT IN EDUCATION
ONE FULL TIME STUDENT IN ENGINEERING
ONE FULL TIME STUDENT IN FINE ARTS
ONE FULL TIME STUDENT IN HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Nominations Close 30 April 1996

Nomination papers must be signed by no fewer than three students eligible to vote, other than the candidate, and by the candidate. Nomination forms are available in Room B102, Sedgewick Building on or after 20 March 1996.

A nomination paper is not valid unless it is received in Room B102, Sedgewick Building, University of Victoria, not later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, 30 April 1996.

Election

The election will take place at the Senate meeting on May 1, 1996.

Sheila Sheldon Collyer
University Secretary

Dated this 18th day of March, 1996
Office of the University Secretary

approved for Posting
until 30 April 1996
UVSS/SUB

ERRATUM:

In our March 14 cover story, *Rally marked 37th anniversary of invasion of Tibet,* Judy Tethong's name was printed incorrectly. Tethong's name appeared as Judy Love because of a misunderstanding. At the rally, she was introduced as Judy-la, which is a Tibetan endearment. I apologise for any inconvenience this caused.

—Adrienne Mercer

VIPIRG

Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group

Refund Period

VIPIRG is an autonomous, non-profit organization dedicated to research, education and action in the public interest. VIPIRG helps students to research, educate and advocate with the support of undergraduate student fees of $3.00 per semester, ($1.50 for part-time students). VIPIRG offers skills training, a resource centre, and we have a long history of making life better for the students of UVic and the Victoria community.
Students who wish to relinquish their membership must visit the VIPIRG office, Rm. 144 in the old SUB during the weekday:
March 25-29: 10:00am - 4:00pm and 5:00,- 6:30pm
April 1-5: 10:00am - 3:00pm.
Please bring your valid student card.

Tuition frozen - at least until (re)election

by Karen Kelly

It appears that lobbying against a tuition-fee increase paid off for students attending post-secondary education institutions in British Columbia.

UVic students gathered in the Graduate Students' Society lounge on Monday, March 18, to hear Premier Glen Clark announce the provincial government's decision regarding tuition fees.

The premier, via a televised message, committed to freeze tuition fees next year.

"My government is offering a guarantee to BC's youth and what we are guaranteeing is an opportunity ... to get affordable education," the premier said.

Clark said keeping post-secondary education affordable is a priority for the NDP government, despite continual education-funding cuts from Ottawa.

Elizabeth Cull, minister of finance, attended the meeting in the GSS lounge.

"If we look across Canada in the next couple of months, we're going to see two ways of doing things — what the rest of the provinces are doing, and then there's BC," Cull said .

Other provinces across the country are raising tuition fees from 15 to 20 per cent and there is no way of telling how long the NDP's commitment to education will last. Tuition fees have gone up 39 per cent since the NDP government was first elected.

When accused of "vote-grabbing" and criticized for broken promises, Cull acknowledged that the freeze was not permanent.

"This is only a one year freeze and we'll have to make commitments year by year as we go along," Cull said.

Concerns were also raised about cuts to other social programs, such as welfare – concerns that they would be expected to bear the brunt of the tuition freeze.

Cull promised that her government would "work to get it right" but said there would have to be some trade-offs down the road. Public employee lay-offs have already saved the provincial government $200 million dollars, she said.

Tina Walker, chairperson of the UVSS, praised students for their lobbying of the government but said she was hesitant to believe that this is a long-term commitment to affordable education.

"We have to continue lobbying the government and pressure the government to put more money into post-secondary institutions' operating budgets," Walker said.

Students on campus are also viewing the decision with a certain amount of skepticism.

"I'm impressed and I guess I won't have to worry so much over the summer," second-year student Shannon Kipps said, "but I can't help wondering just how long this tuition freeze will last." ❑

Elizabeth Cull fields media scrum before her trip to Disneyland.

Andrew Lupton photo

Week of events draw attention to racism on campus

by Lisa Ujimoto

Racism is a global problem that touches the lives of everyone.

From March 18 to 23, the United Coalition Against Racism is organizing the Week for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to draw attention to racism on campus, and must be addressed.

A number of activities have been planned by members of the coalition. Groups including the Women of Colour Collective, VIPIRG, Students of Colour Club, and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance have been brought together by the event. The UVSS is also supporting the campaign.

The week of awareness was inspired by the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The annual event is held on March 21.

On March 19, the Students of Colour Club and the UVSS organized two forums, "Anti-Racism and Hate Groups in Canada" and "Racism within Academia." Students and staff of colour spoke of their experiences with racism.

The discussion/action group "white people taking responsibility for their racism" held on March 20 is not meant to exclude people of colour. "It's meant to create an environment where white people can get together and discuss the ways that they perpetuate racism and the ways that they can solve it," said Ana Torres, UVSS director of academics. She is a member of the Women of Colour Collective.

"Hopefully they'll do a lot of brainstorming and come up with some solutions and deal with it on a personal, and also on a political, level." Torres said.

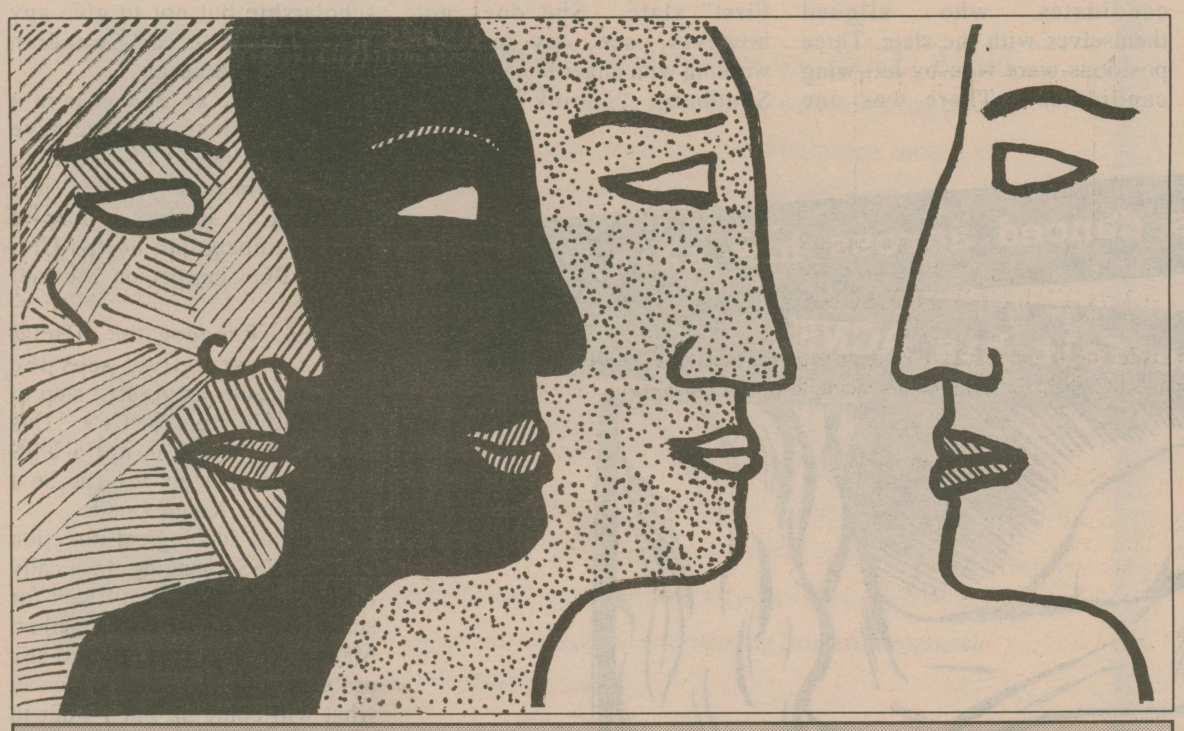
CFUV campus radio is also contributing to the campaign by broadcasting some of the scheduled events throughout the week.

"We'll be broadcasting parts of the forums, the anti-racism rally, as well as the speech to be given by Emery Barnes, speaker of the house in British Columbia" said Keith Powell, CFUV program director.

The rally to be held on March 21 in front of the McPherson Library will include a variety of speakers, and end with a march to the office of David Strong, UVic president. Protesters will present him with a list of student demands concerning the eradication of racism on campus.

The list of demands were compiled by the Women of Colour Collective and the Students of Colour Club. They call for an anti-racism policy, a race relations office, and a First Nations Studies Program. The groups also demand more effective hiring policies to ensure that people of colour and First Nations people are given a fair and equitable opportunity for employment.

The week culminates with the March 23 Multi-Talent Night. The variety show is a yearly event organized by the Association of International and Canadian Students. ❑



Student senators move to combat racism

by George Pringle

A last minute motion caused a stir at the March 6 senate meeting.

Student senate members Sonia Manak and Joel Freedman brought forward a series of motions to combat racism and anti-semitism on campus to support the 30th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

"Being a woman of colour on campus, I believe that the university hasn't recognized issues of racism," said Manak.

The Senate approved a motion to declare March 21 "the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" at UVic.

A motion to support principles contained in a 1983 United Nations resolution met some resistance from senate members.

Ted Wooley, faculty senator, questioned the effect of a provision of the motion that could require departments "to examine history, geography and social studies textbooks with a view to correcting any erroneous assessment of historical and social data, or their unbalanced presentation, which could give rise to racial prejudice."

Marie Campbell, faculty senator, supported the motion. "I don't find it strange or difficult that we would be asked to do that. It's simply what is being done at universities everywhere."

Senate faculty member John Money objected to another provision that promoted the goal of requiring the teaching staff to reflect racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity through affirmative action programs.

"I disagree with the hiring of teachers based on who they are rather than what they can do," Money said.

In an attempt to make the motion less controversial, faculty senator Rennie Warburton added a preamble to the motion. He proposed to support the UN resolution in principle "without supporting the specific measures."

The motion failed.

Senators passed another motion supporting the March 21 anti-racism rally over the objections of faculty senate member Reg Mitchell. "I hesitate to give carte blanche blessing to any old event where anything could happen," Mitchell said.

Freedman and Manak withdrew a motion requesting that faculty not conduct any tests during the rally or penalize students for missing classes. ❑

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"Putting Students First" slate dominates election '96

by Richard Carlson

The recent UVSS elections clearly indicate two new trends: a move towards the political right and the increasing power of slates.

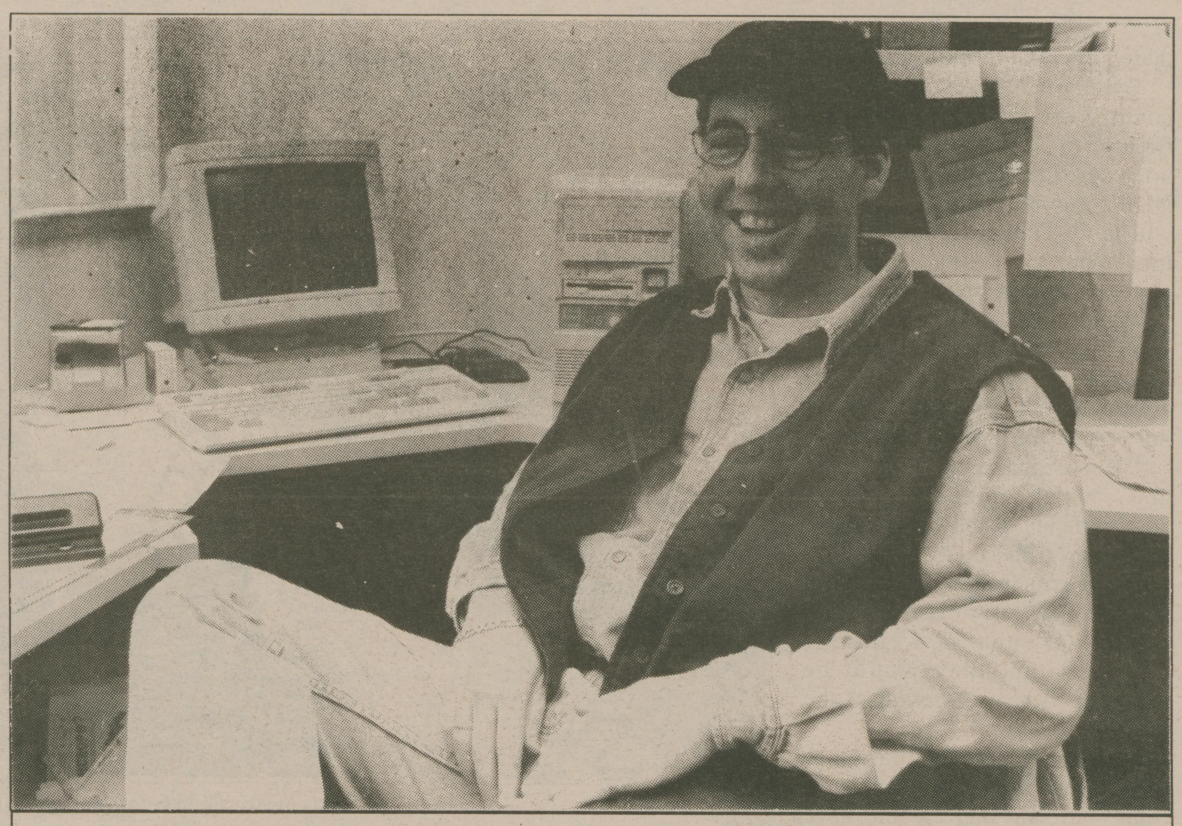
The "Putting Students First" slate headed by candidates Ian Flemington and Kelly Sundberg managed to dominate both the UVSS executive and the board of directors. Over 2,000 students voted, the most since 1990.

For the UVSS executive, chairperson candidate Flemington, present director of finance, had a clear 180-vote victory over Julie Lewis, current director at large. Lewis ran with the left-wing slate using the slogan "Stop the Cuts/Fund the Future."

The race for director of academics was extremely close. Sundberg defeated Sarah Burgess, the left-wing candidate, by only two votes. There were 304 spoiled ballots — more than enough to have given any side a clear victory.

The Women's Centre-endorsed candidate Sonia Manak had a 60-vote margin over her closest rival to become the next director of services.

Tim McGuire, director-of-finance candidate, almost didn't get his ballots counted. According to McGuire, on Monday, March 11, the Commerce Students' Society sent out an e-mail to all commerce students listing candidates "friendly to commerce." McGuire said the email was previously authorized by Tom Sluchinksi, co-chief electoral officer. Most of the students did not receive the e-mail until the day of the election. Campaigning, once voting starts, is not allowed under UVSS electoral policy.



Flemington plans to protect his post as new UVSS Chairperson.

Andrew Lupton photo

McGuire is the president of the Commerce Students' Society so he was held responsible. He stepped down as president during the election. Because of the controversy, director of finance ballots have not been counted yet.

The ballots for director of finance and a recount of the director at large ballots will be done on Friday, March 22.

The directors at large race was won decisively by the "Putting Students First" slate. Of the 11 positions, seven were taken by candidates who aligned themselves with the slate. Three positions were won by left-wing candidates. There was one independent, Sheila Ie.

Flemington is excited about next year's board. "One worry I had was getting on as chair and not having a majority on the board to give direction to the Students' Society," Flemington said.

As yet, Flemington does not have any plans for next year. "We want to develop what our plan may be and what we will be doing before we take office on May 1," Flemington said.

Manak was the only one of the three decided executive positions not from the "Putting Students First" slate. She does not, however, see any problem working with either Flemington or Sundberg. "I think it may be interesting working with people of different ideological backgrounds than myself," Manak said.

Theresa Sabourin, director of services, said she "was personally disappointed with the results as there were some excellent candidates who stand for issues I feel are important on campus and have been active fighting cuts in education." Sabourin was elected as a director at large on next year's board.

Students decided to raise their fees 50 cents a semester to give international students a scholarship but not to give any more money to the Canadian Federation of Students.

This is the second year in a row that students at UVic have voted not to raise CFS fees from $3.75 a term to $6.00. The "no" side won by 300 votes despite active campaigning by the CFS and its BC Chairperson Michael Gardiner.

Devon Kruggel, the official "no" representative, sees the election results as the first step to remove UVic from the CFS. "This shows that UVic is not a CFS school and does not want to be a CFS school," Kruggel said.

With the ideological direction of the UVSS changing drastically next year, it might be difficult for some candidates to work together. Manak, for one, does not see any problem with it. "It is hard to say what will come up but I want to be able — and I hope to be able to — work together next year," Manak said. ❑

Election Results

Referendums:

CFS ($2.25)

Yes-	763
No-	**1062**
Spoiled-	184

ISSF ($0.50)

Yes-	**989**
No-	855
Spoiled-	161

CHAIR

Flemington-	**939**
Lewis-	753
Spoiled-	280

ACADEMICS

Burgess-	834
Sundberg-	**836**
Spoiled-	304

SERVICES

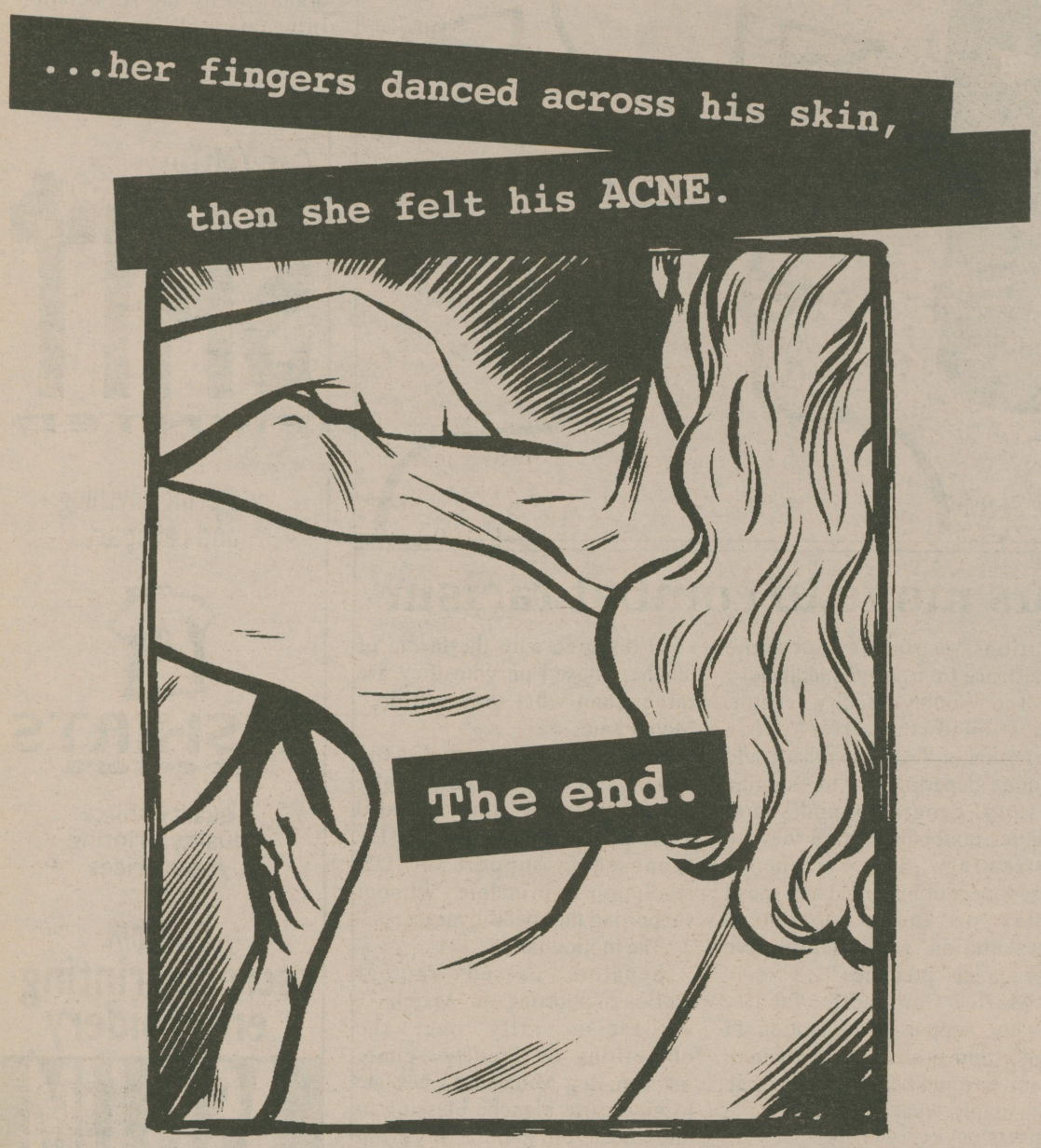
Kruggel-	293
Manak-	**497**
Wagg-	433
Willey-	436

FINANCES

Results Not In

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE (Unofficial)

Tweedie-	693
Sabourin-	663
Fleming-	644
Yung-	628
Schlotter-	610
Boulton-	591
Hargreave-	532
Ie-	490
Hodgeweide-	487
Troen-	468
Phillips-	461



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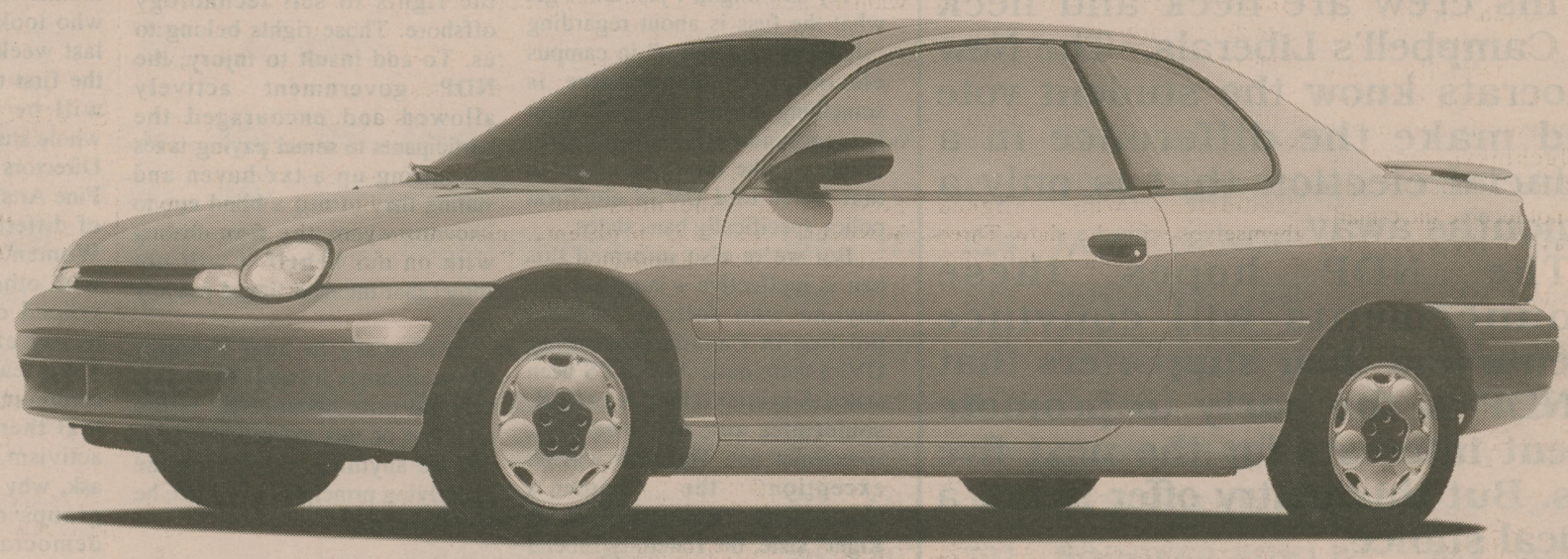

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EDITORIAL

NDP media manipulation

What a great time to be a student in British Columbia.

Glen Clark gave businesses more money to hire students this summer, announced a one-year tuition freeze, and promised more money for universities to create more spaces for students.

Time to celebrate, right?

Wrong.

Politicians always provide goodies during the run-up to an election. This is no exception. Clark is the lead actor following a carefully written script; the NDP announcements are staggered over a few days to maximize their media value, leading voters to think he's actually making things happen.

Early polls indicate that Clark and his crew are neck and neck with Campbell's Liberals. The New Democrats know the student vote could make the difference in a provincial election that is only a few months away.

The NDP hopes these announcements will convince students and their supporters that the NDP is the party to promote student interests for the next five years. But this paltry offer is not a political stance.

The NDP is only looking 12 months ahead, until slightly past the next election. What will they offer students next year when the federal Liberals cut transfer payments even further? Government can only be cut back so far before services are compromised.

The NDP's vaunted "Guarantee for Youth" doesn't provide any substance beyond this year. Big ads and announcements can't hide the fact that the NDP doesn't know what to do with post-secondary education.

Students are caught in a real bind. We are engaged in an educational process that is over-priced, under-appreciated and out-of-focus. Why do we need youth training programs if we're already in school?

Editorial topics are decided by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Martlet, *L Hut, rm. 55. Editorials are written by one or more staff members; opinions are not necessarily those of all staff.*

The *Martlet* has an open letters policy and will undertake to print every letter received from members of the university community, with priority to undergraduate students. Letters must be **TYPEWRITTEN** (you can use *Martlet* computers), submitted on disk, or e-mailed, and include your name and phone number for verification. **LETTERS MUST BE 200 WORDS MAXIMUM.** Letters will be reviewed for libel at the *Martlet* editorial meeting, 4 p.m. on the week of publication. Deadline is Monday noon. Letters will be prioritized in the order received. Only one submission from the same person will be printed per week. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed. Letters will not be edited for spelling or grammar. Announcements will be directed to billboards. Letters can be mailed to Box 3035, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3P3, dropped off at L Hut, rm. 55 , (by the tennis courts). or e-mailed to martlet@sol.uvic.ca.

Slates intrinsic to elections

Editors:

Try as I might, I just don't get what the fuss is about regarding "slates of candidates" in campus elections. It seems there is something intrinsically evil about having candidates affiliate with others of like mind, so much so that we're told UVSS electoral policy specifically bans slates.

But we're also informed this ban is ineffective – surprise! For anyone who follows student politics in Canada (including UVic) there have ALWAYS been slates. Sometimes they're official, sometimes not; often helpful, sometimes not. This year was no exception: the Women's Centre/left "Education Is A Right" slate, the fraternity/Liberal "Putting Students First" slate, plus a few, non-aligned candidates.

The adverse effects of slates is debatable, but by whom I'm not sure. It seems the use of slates is not limited to any political perspective – both the left and the center/right run slates, almost every year, in spite of UVSS policy. My true puzzlement is how the subsequently-elected student politicians can then legislate against the very mechanisms which they, to a greater or lesser degree, used themselves only months before. It seems to me that slates, whatever their merit, are as intrinsic to elections as the candidates themselves. My question for next year's BoD is, will this "banning" nonsense be quietly abolished?

Christopher Devlin

Hydrogate – insult and injury

Editors:

There have been many news stories about the "Hydrogate" scandal regarding BC NDP insiders and family members receiving special treatment from their friends. However, to me the real story is not whether NDPers should have benefited from this special deal, but rather should anyone or any BC company have benefited, let alone a Cayman Islands company.

The government should be taken to task for dreaming up such a scheme where we taxpayers foot the bill so that a company can be guaranteed 24% return and given the rights to sell technology offshore. Those rights belong to us. To add insult to injury, the NDP government actively allowed and encouraged the participants to avoid paying taxes by setting up a tax haven and stating they turned a blind eye to knowing whom they were dealing with on our behalf. I will not forget that the next time I pay my taxes.

It is scary to hear Premier Clark distance himself from this scandal now because he is the architect of this mess. If he does not see anything wrong with the underlying principles involved, he will do it again.

Patrick Hunt

SUB 2 coming soon

Editors:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank many students for participating in this years elections and voting for their representatives for Board of Governors, Board of Directors, and voting on the referendum questions.

We have much too look forward too in this upcoming year, Phase 2 of the Student Union building will be opening in early May which will be home for many of our student groups on campus.

Although the newly elected Board of Directors does not officially meet until May, we have already started working hard to plan for the upcoming year, and how we will implement your ideas. For those students who will be on campus this summer you are going to love it, and for those who will be returning in the fall we will start off the year with the Grand Opening of our new building.

With the new SUB open it will be time to start our next project, and that is to Build School Spirit! Thank you for your vote and good luck on your exams!

Ian Flemington

New BoD diverse

Editors:

I would like to extend my thanks to the students of UVIC who took the time and voted in last weeks UVSS elections. For the first time in years the UVSS will be representative of the whole student body. There will be Directors from the Sciences, Arts, Fine Arts as well as from a variety of different student groups. The Women's Centre, LGBA along with other activist groups have voiced concern regarding the newly elected BoD members. They fear social justice will be compromised by this new BoD in that there will be less radical activism. To these individuals I ask, why be worried of a diverse groups of students who were democratically elected by the whole student body? I question the Women's Centre endorsement of candidates! Why did they endorse Conrad Thompson and not Tracy Deans, a employee of the UVSS, single mother, and progressively active woman? Why didn't they endorse Shila Ei, a woman who worked in the Women's Centre last term? These questions make me ask what is the true political agenda of the Women's Centre.

Kelly Sundberg

Guidelines for gift of life

Editors:

The Red Cross, blood services will be visiting the University of Victoria during the week of March 18 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The hours of clinic operation will be 9:30 am - 3:30 pm on all days except Friday when the hours will be 9:30 am - 2:30 pm.

Donors from UVic as well as Camosun College are being asked to come to the clinics and donate the gift of life. Frequent causes for deferral of donors are the presence of an active infection, including a cold, chronic health problems, tatoos or body piercing with the last 12 months including needle stick injuries, skin grafts or if potential donors have received blood or blood products.

The minimum age for blood donation is seventeen years and

The Martlet

Quote of the week:

"I was overdressed for my job interview, wasn't I?"

—David the rollerbladin' bookkeeper

• Three (3) acme papers left •
Adrienne Mercer
Miko Nico Ross

• aaall better•
Meesha-hurricane-chan

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Jess 'rocks our world' Howard

• News Editor •
Adam Turner

• National News •
Sharon Bennett

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Matt Pollard
Brad Sheldon
David Smith
Conrad Thompson
Daniel Tsai
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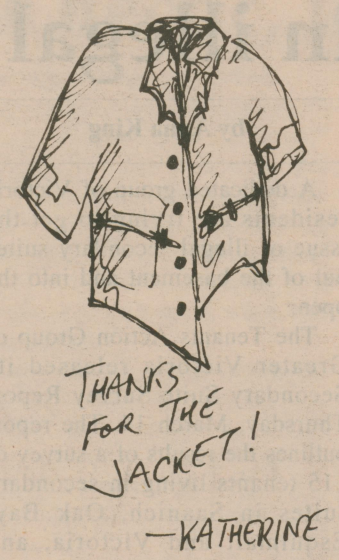
donors must wait a minimum of 56 days (two months) between donations. The blood donation process can take an hour to complete, however, the actual time of donation is approximately 7 - 10 minutes. The unit of blood taken from the donor is approximately 450 millilitres (9/10 of a pint) and is roughly 6% - 8% of the body's volume.

Replacing the plasma portion of the blood donation, which roughly 80% water, takes 24 - 48 hours, the red blood cells take up to five weeks to replace.

Jason Austin
Program Consultant
Blood Services, Coastal Region



Student Voice

Corporate Lobby Talks Freedom

Chief corporate lobbyist, the Fraser Institute, recently rated countries on the basis of "economic freedom." The United Nations also rates countries, but on the basis of human development. It is interesting to compare the two lists.

The UN is clearly impressed with the Scandinavian democracies, all of which are world leaders in terms of living standards. However, they rank no higher than 41st with the Fraser economists.

Similarly, the Fraser favorites – Hong Kong, New Zealand and Singapore – are not viewed with such fondness at the UN, with living standards ranking 24th, 17th and 35th respectively.

Thus we see that "economic freedom" does not include freedom from poverty or unemployment. In fact, low rates of poverty and unemployment were actually considered liabilities. And since Singapore ranks 3rd with the Fraser Institute, basic human rights are not a big issue either.

The same social programs which ensure us a high standard of living, hinder corporate profit-reaping. The last time Canada had a debt this size, we created Medicare, started funding universities, and committed to full employment.

This time we seem determined to go back to the 19th century – back to when corporations had the "economic freedom" to pay starvation wages, unrestrained by worker's rights and unencumbered with the cost of social programs.

Cristobal Young

Student Voice

Break the cycle

Hey look at me
normal, priviledged, full of misinfo with
a myopic view of the universe, basking in the bastion of ... power
how can I go wrong?

I can oppress them b'cause
I make the LAW. I am priviledged.
I control preacher man (sic), business man (sic)
academic man (sic) and ...

I am normal. I validate your oppression
in the courts just for US ...
You can assimilate and continue
the cycle of oppression.

Look in my eyes.
I can see through your lies.
I am no collaborator. I am what I am ...
I cannot assimilate and continue
the cycle of oppression.

You steal our 'nations' and create concrete lies.
You destroy the earth and print pure lies.
You oppress women and print more lies.
You scapegoat the poor and print mega lies.

When we STRATEGIZE to protect our 'NATIONS'
you send your thugs to kill us
When we ORGANIZE to preserve the earth
you send your thugs to put us behind bars
When we AGITATE for women's rights
you call us loud obnoxious bitches
When we CHALLENGE your lies about poor people
you call us welfare bums
When we ANALYZE your structures
you spy on us.
When will you realize your action or inaction
to stop the cycle of oppression?

Like brother X said "... We've got to
change our minds about each other.
We have to see each other with new eyes.
We have to see each other as brothers and sisters."

Are we brothers and sisters or oppressors?
We listen to you. Do you listen to us?
We hear you, we know you.
Do you hear us? Do you know us?
We are the MAJORITY. We must fight and win.
To be brothers and sisters, Break the cycle and repent.

Prince Jusu Nallo

CINECENTA
DOLBY STEREO

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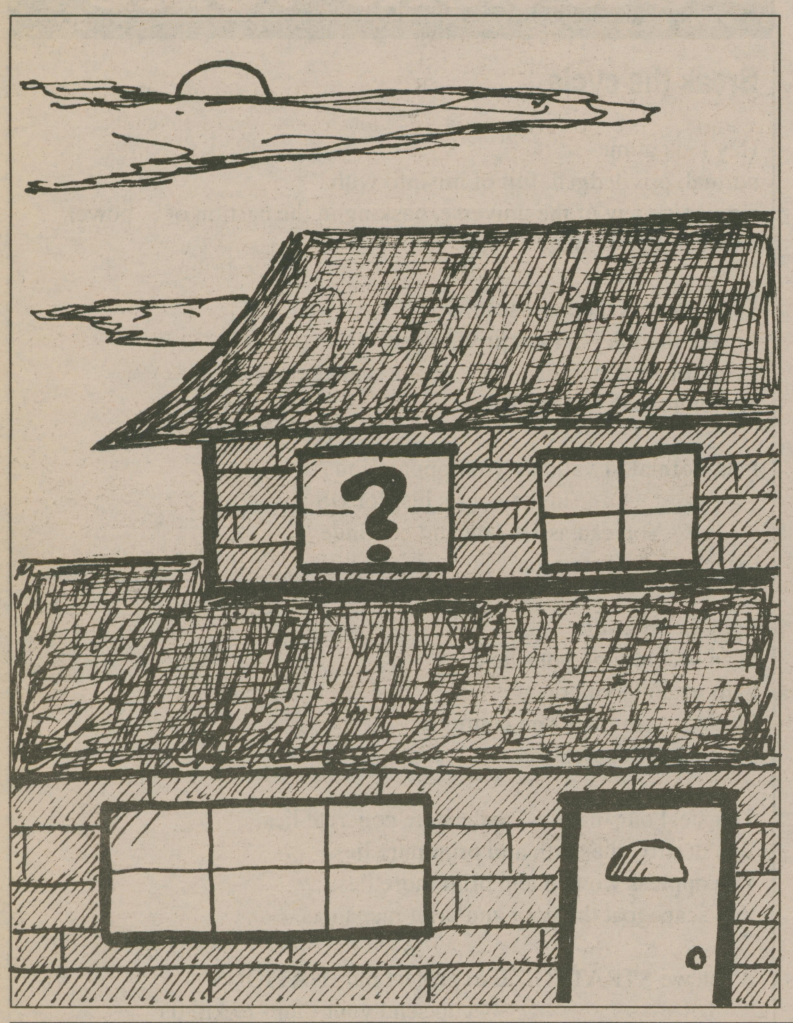
Many students live in illegal secondary suites



by Anna King

A dedicated group of Victoria residents are trying to get the issue of illegal secondary suites out of the basement and into the open.

The Tenants Action Group of Greater Victoria released its Secondary Suite Survey Report Thursday, March 14. The report outlines the results of a survey of 115 tenants living in secondary suites in Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt and Victoria, and advocates the legalization of all secondary suites.

In Greater Victoria — where 66 per cent of the population are renters and 35 per cent of these people experience problems paying the monthly bill — the need for affordable housing is urgent.

The tenants are primarily students, single people and single parents who struggle with increasing tuition costs, insufficient loans, and the rising cost of day care. They face additional barriers from an underground rental market. Without housing rights, these tenants can be subject to eviction by building inspectors.

A secondary suite is defined as any suite in a home that is a detached family dwelling. They are currently illegal in Oak Bay, Esquimalt and Saanich. Victoria has a building permit that allows legal secondary suites in houses built before 1970. Victoria has approximately 4000 registered secondary suites.

Why, then, are people so anxious to rent secondary suites? "It lets me be part of a neighborhood," said Ann Shearing, a panel member at the press conference. "Plus, without me and my partner, how could this house be filled up, unless it held a family of six?" .

"Secondary suites are a way of creating diversity, which is healthy."

Panel member David Turner agreed. "I want to have a [socio-economically] mixed neighborhood. Secondary suites are a way of creating diversity, which is healthy." Turner said legalizing secondary suites are a way to bring about greater neighborhood stability.

For tenants, the main issue is affordability. As there is no longer any federal support for affordable housing programs, secondary suites are the only option for some residents. Still, illegal suites can be expensive. Of the tenants responding to the survey, 56 per cent pay between one third to over half their income on rent.

Secondary suites are commonly accused of causing increased density and parking problems. However, the suites actually make better use of existing infrastructure, and 72 per cent of the tenants who responded to the survey did not think parking was an issue.

For tenants, the main issue is affordability.

Turner thinks these misconceptions stem from a discriminatory "not in my backyard" attitude, where tenants who live in these suites are seen as transients who do not pay taxes, and may change the character of the neighborhood.

In fact, the report shows 85 per cent of respondents stayed in their suites for a year or more, and most are employed taxpayers or are on student loans.

Shannon Lowe, Tenants Action Group member and UVSS director at large, believes it's unfair to deny secondary suite tenants, especially students, the rights enjoyed by others.

"One third of our respondents are students," said Lowe. "Our fight for affordable housing must be heard and one way to begin is by legalizing secondary suites."

TAG has named March 17 to 23 as Fair Housing Week. For more information call 480-7881. ❑

Veterans to represent students

by George Pringle

New faces may dominate the student society board of directors but veteran student politicians took both positions on the university board of governors.

Theresa Sabourin topped the polls with 594 votes; Matt Pollard was close behind at 527. Sabourin, current director of services, has also been elected to her third term on the UVSS board as a director at large. Pollard served two years on the UVSS board, including director of services in 1993-94. Both new representatives are long-time members of the Women's Centre-endorsed slate.

The two "Putting Students First" candidates Steve Vander Wal and Lee Girardo finished third and fourth with 403 and 349 votes respectively.

Independent candidates Devon Kruggel (265 votes), Pam Grant (245 votes), and Craig Lloyd (132 votes) finished well back. All three were also elected by acclamation to the senate.

The board of governors, the highest decision-making body at UVic, is responsible for the financial decisions of the university.

Students have only two seats on the fifteen-member board; government appointees fill the majority of positions. ❑

In Person Pick-Up

STATEMENT OF GRADES WINTER SESSION 95/96

AUTHORIZATION TO RE-REGISTER WINTER SESSION 96/97

(Including Telephone Registration Guide & Timetable)

PACKAGE

WHY? Records Services is offering this option for students who would prefer to come in-person instead of the customary method of receiving this documentation in the mail.

WHO is eligible? All CONTINUING Undergraduate students registered in Winter Session 95/96 and registering for the same Faculty/Program, Winter Session 96/97

EXCEPTIONS. The following groups of students will receive their packages in the mail:

- students who have applied to transfer admission to a new faculty/program
- Bachelor of Engineering students
- Distance Education (Off-Campus students)
- STUDENTS WHO DID NOT PICK UP THEIR PACKAGE

WHEN will the packages be available?

Thursday, May 16th 10 am - 8 pm
Friday, May 17th 10 am - 8 pm
Saturday, May 18th 9 am - Noon

WHERE? Records Services, Main Floor, University Centre.

HOW? IDENTIFICATION will be required at the time of pick-up. Written permission from the student must be submitted to allow for pick-up by someone else on their behalf.

QUESTIONS? Contact Records Services or telephone 721-8121
(Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm)

UVSS condemns hiring of chairperson

by Richard Carlson

The UVSS, supposedly a grassroots student organization, does not seem too interested in the grass.

At their February 26 meeting, the UVSS board of directors passed a motion condemning the hiring of James Tully as the new Political Science department chairperson.

"It was more important for the person to be a feminist than female."

The board was concerned that the Berger-Bilsen "chilly climate" report on the Political Science department, written at a cost of over $190,000, was ignored. The report recommended the hiring of a female department head.

The Political Science Course Union was not consulted before the vote. At the March 11 board meeting, representatives from the Political Science Course Union came to protest the motion.

"We are the ones who discuss items with the students in the department and you didn't ask for our opinion," said Pam Grant, president of the course union.

Grant said the hiring committee, which she pointed out was at least 50 per cent female, decided that Tully was the best person for the job. Grant served as undergraduate representative on the chairperson search committee that chose Tully.

"It was more important for the person to be a feminist than to be female," Grant said. She said that the position was offered to a woman last year but was turned down.

The UVSS board defended its earlier stand. "It was unfortunate that we overlooked the Political Science Course Union but the UVSS does retain a right to take a stand on this issue," said Julie Lewis, a director at large.

Another director at large, Sarah Burgess, insisted that the motion was an attack on the process of hiring and not on the person. Burgess believes Tully is a very progressive person. The motion was "a general exclamation of frustration to the university's view on equity," Burgess said.

The only thing Grant and the board could agree on was concern over equitable hiring. "With the ... budget cuts, I wonder when we will be able to afford equity?" Burgess said.

Grant was a little more optimistic. "Discussion like this will probably go a long way to bring about equity," Grant said. ❑

Harper and First Nations to meet with Mandela

by Samer Muscati, Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — They live on opposite ends of the world, but are united by a similar history and a common dream.

Canadian MP Elijah Harper and South African president Nelson Mandela have spent their lives improving the harsh living conditions imposed on their people. The two leaders will share their experiences during a historic two-week visit to South Africa by Harper and aboriginal chiefs.

"The visit will be very significant for First Nations in Canada," said Harper, who will also be meeting with government ministers, senior officials, and tribal leaders during the March 12-27 visit. "We've experienced the same kind of history. I'm looking forward to meeting with South African officials and seeing how they're working out their problems."

The fact-finding mission by the Canadian delegation emphasizes a growing sense of international solidarity between indigenous peoples and the common struggles they face. The trip also has great symbolic and historical significance, since it takes the first step into closing a dark chapter in Canadian history.

During the 1940s, white South African officials visited Canada and studied the federal government's Indian Act, including how reserves were used to marginalize and control the lives of aboriginals.

Al Torbitt, an advisor with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs who is organizing the trip, said Canada's Indian Act played a key role in establishing racial segregation in South Africa.

Torbitt said while circumstances for indigenous people in South Africa and Canada are different in many respects, the two share common experiences of colonialism, suppression of culture and languages, and socio-economic oppression.

"These forms of oppression have been expressed through similar race-based laws," he said.

Torbitt said the two parties will discuss ways of dealing with the effects of that oppression. Other issues that will be discussed include economic and social development, education, health care, land redistribution, and constitutional development in multi-ethnic societies.

Harper said he is excited about meeting the 77-year-old Mandela, a person who has inspired him on many different levels.

The Nobel-peace-prize winner spent 27 years in prison after leading a political uprising in the 1960s against white rule. Four years after his release from prison, he was elected president of South Africa.

"It's a great honour for me to meet him," said Harper. "I will be expressing my admiration for the tremendous strength he had in maintaining the vision and integrity of his people."

But Harper is also no stranger to triumphs and troubles. He has come a long way from his days as a child on the poverty-stricken Cree-Ojibway reserve at Red Sucker Lake.

He became a hero to many natives when as a New Democrat MLA in 1990, he used procedural tactics to prevent the Manitoba legislature from voting to ratify the Meech Lake Accord.

In December 1995, the Cree leader organized a four-day "Sacred Assembly" of aboriginals and other spiritual leaders, in the hopes of healing and unifying Canada.

Harper hopes that this visit will further the reconciliation of aboriginals in Canada. ❑

national briefs

Canada's foriegn aid wins race to bottom

OTTAWA (CUP) — Finance Minister Paul Martin announced cuts on March 6 that will see foreign aid slump to its lowest level since the mid-1960s. The Liberals have slashed Canada's aid budget by more than 34 per cent — from $2.9 billion to $1.9 billion — since taking office in 1993.

The cuts will place Canada, a traditional leader in aid donation, near the bottom of the generosity list for developed countries providing assistance.

Development organizations such as World University Service of Canada are concerned that some of their programs wil not survive the cuts, and that this could have serious ramifications for people in the third world. ❑

Underground nuclear waste storage planned

TORONTO (CUP) — Phase one of a plan to build the world's first permanent underground storage facility for spent nuclear fuel is now underway.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), a crown corporation established to investigate all facets of our nuclear power program, is holding public hearings in an attempt to get its proposal approved by Canada's environment minister.

Many participants, including student and women's groups, spoke out against the consultative process as much as about the proposal. They requested that not just the burial proposal, but the continued use of nuclear power in Canada be put on the table.

A specific site has not yet been chosen.

Despite the fact that the proposal has been researched for the last 15 years, activist groups are hopeful that with loud public opposition the plan can still be stopped. ❑

Acadia Students to receive laptops

TORONTO (CUP) — The information age is coming to Acadia University — and students are paying for it.

The university has plans to upgrade their computer system by providing each student with an IBM personal laptop computer.

But to pay for the program, Acadia students will see a $1,000 to $1,200 jump in their tuition fees in mandatory computer leasing costs.

Tuition at Acadia is currently among the highest in Canada, at $3,495.

Acadia's student union president Kate Jenkins says although the price of the program is a huge concern for students, a bursary is being set up to help offset the cost.

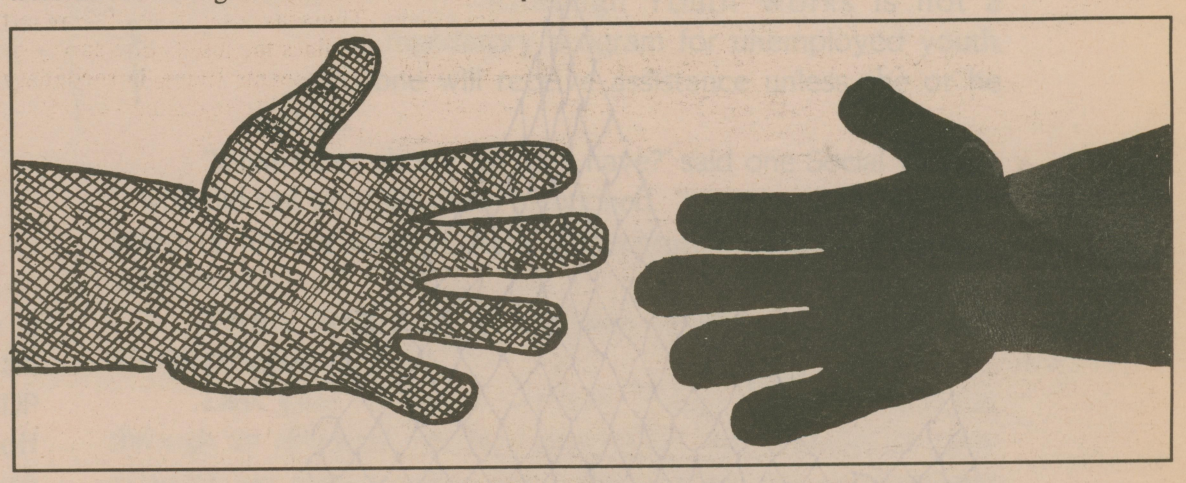
And she says students like the idea of upgrading the computer system at Acadia.

IBM Canada Ltd., Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Co. Ltd. and Marriott Corp. are partners with Acadia University in the project.

CFS says it is not in the interest of universities to engage in this kind of partnership with the private sector, which could gain undue curriculum control.

Approximately 400 new students in the business, computer science and physics programs will begin leasing the computers next year, with all new students acquiring laptops by the fall of 1997. ❑

Sources: Ottawa Bureau Chief; The Window *and* The Varsity, *University of Toronto.*



Students irate over Klein's degree

by Juliet Williams

EDMONTON (CUP) — Students at the University of Alberta are upset with plans to offer Premier Ralph Klein an honourary degree at this year's spring convocation.

University administrators have been flooded with hundreds of calls and letters of protest from students and alumni in response to the Senate's offer of an honourary Doctorate of Law.

The degree is being offered to reward Klein for his community service and role in reducing the province's deficit.

"It's an insult to anybody who's actually worked for their degree," said English student Jasmine Rault.

"Not only is he such a flop in his own work, but that he would make such a point of cutting back support for our education, and then that he should be rewarded for his own non-education is sick" she said.

Klein has cut funding to post-secondary education by over $200 million since he's been in office. Earlier this year, he referred to university students who interrupted a government function as "jackasses" and accused others of supporting education cutbacks.

Klein has said that he may not accept the degree "if students are not in favour of it."

"I don't think Klein really cares [about the effects of the education cutbacks]. I mean, a guy with a grade-ten education, who never had to go to university . . . he's not suffering right now," said recent zoology graduate Aaron Freed. Freed added that if Klein were giving the convocation address at his graduation he'd "be bringing along some tomatoes."

Freed's sentiments are not unique. In fact, the threat of a disruption at spring convocation led the U of A's student council to urge Klein to decline the degree, at least for now.

"It's an insult to anybody who's actually worked for their degree."

"At no other point in time as a student representative have I faced such extensive protest," student council vice-president Matthew Hough wrote in a letter to Klein. "Based on the input I have received from students, many will be willing to actively protest your presence at the time of Convocation . . . . This would be an embarrassment for yourself, for the University and for students."

Chancellor of the U of A Senate and former Tory MLA Lou Hyndman said that the degree was being offered to commend the premier for his community service in reducing Alberta's deficit, and in promoting the so-called "Alberta Advantage."

Hyndman added that in bringing the 1988 Winter Olympics to Calgary, Klein "focused international attention on the province of Alberta."

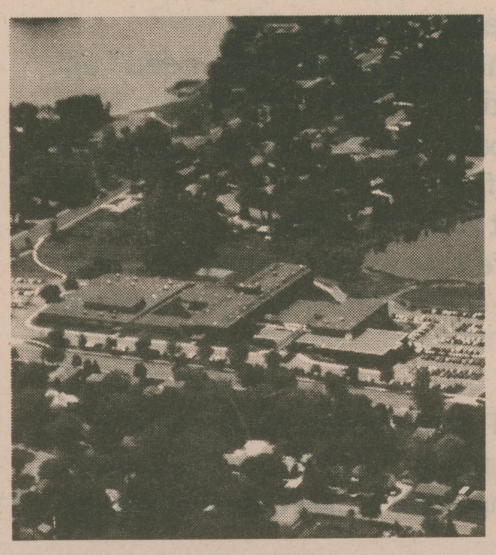
However, the University of Calgary, in the city where Klein used to be mayor, has a strict policy that prevents the Senate from offering degrees to any sitting politician. This is a policy that many members of the U of A community feel the university should adopt, to prevent problems like this from occurring in the future.

"An honourary degree says a lot about a person. I don't know if we want to be saying that about Ralph right now," said second-year science student Shannon Qualie.

"If he does accept it, it will be seen as "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours," even if it wasn't originally intended that way."

Some students argue the point on purely economic terms.

"He should be required like everybody else to pay his $20,000 that it would cost to get the degree," said fourth-year engineering student Jason Crowley. "Degrees cost us money, and there's no reason it shouldn't cost him." ❑



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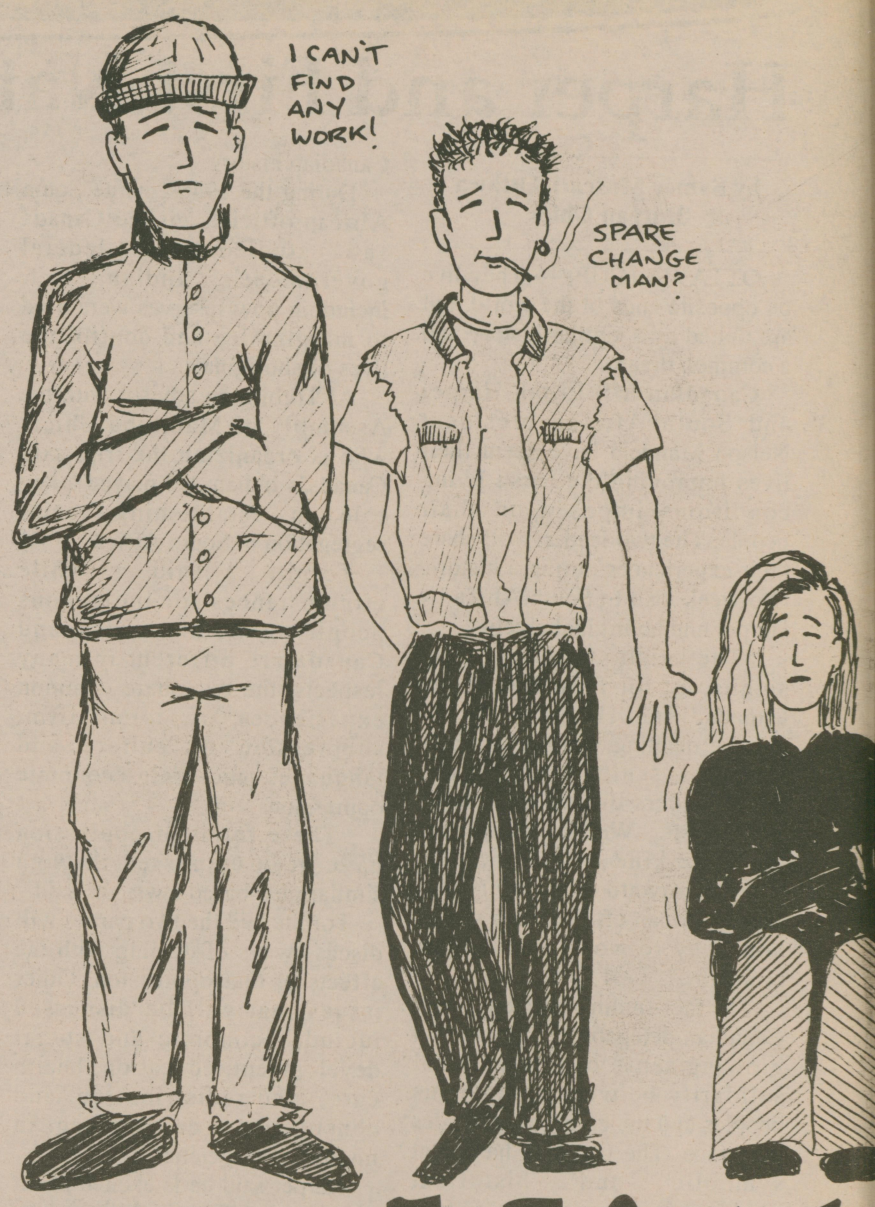


Falling With

by
Mary Vallis

I was late for my interview at the Ministry of Social Services because I couldn't get into the building – security was too tight.

To ride the elevator, you need an identification card with a bar code on the back.

A man on his way back from lunch let me up to the reception desk on the second floor.

"Why is the security so tight in here?" I asked.

He chuckled. "They beefed up security when the new welfare cuts came into effect," he told me. "I guess you can't be too careful."

On January 1, 1996, BC's NDP government introduced a new social program called BC Benefits, the first step in overhauling BC's social safety net. Among the changes are an increase in minimum wage, a new Employment Standards Act, and the elimination of the current welfare state.

"The [social] system was designed in the 1950s for a 1950's economy," said Jerri Wilkins, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour. "And it hasn't changed with the times."

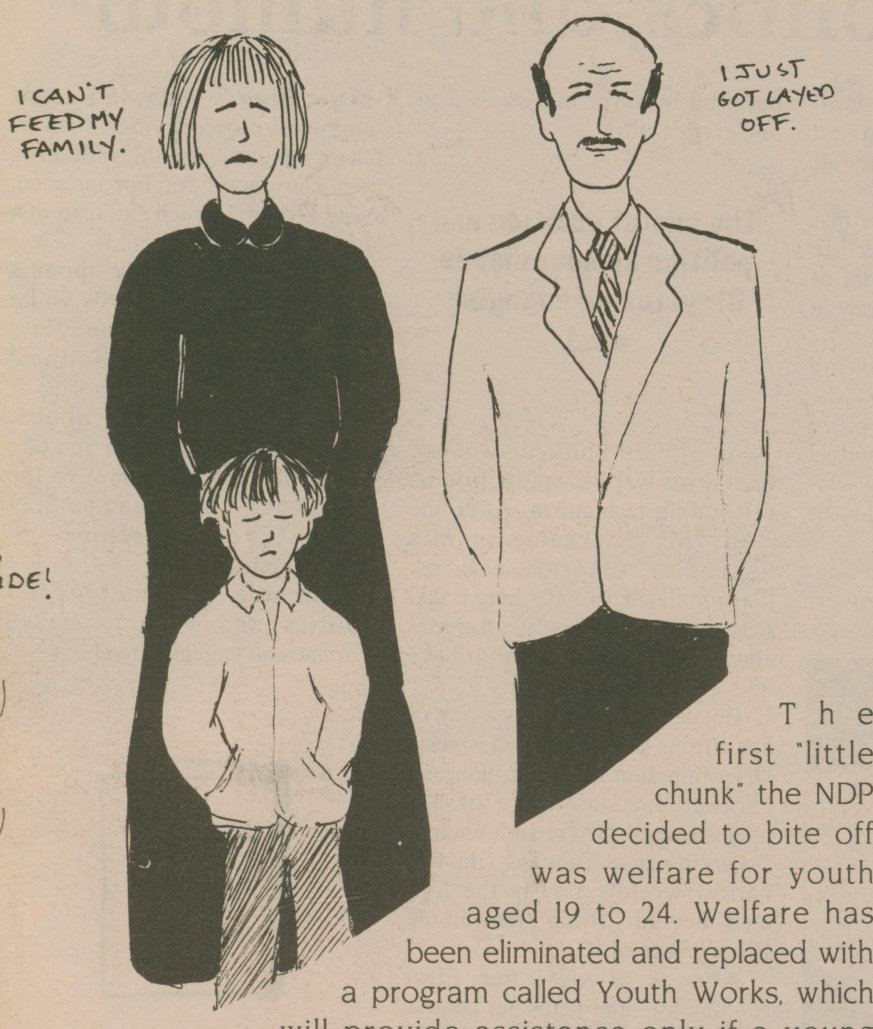
In a "1950s economy," welfare provided aid to people shifting amongst the many long-term jobs available. These days, however, jobs require higher levels of training and aren't as secure as they were in the 1950s. And in the last six years, the number of Canadians receiving welfare has more than doubled.

"I've just ditche
altogether. I'd rath
per-month chequ
through You
everything. I'd ra

BC Benefits was designed late in 1995 through a series of Premier's forum, that brought together government specialists, young people and employers to analyze how the social system could be improved.

Estimated at a cost of $71.3 million, BC Benefits was designed to "put jobs and self-reliance ahead of handouts and dependency," according to a brochure issued by the provincial government.

"It will take years to change the system," said Wilkins. "You have to bite it off in little chunks."



...out a Net

The first "little chunk" the NDP decided to bite off was welfare for youth aged 19 to 24. Welfare has been eliminated and replaced with a program called Youth Works, which will provide assistance only if a young person can prove that he or she is actively looking for work.

Currently one youth in six is receiving government assistance.

"Assistance is no longer going to be a passive system," said Wilkins. "In order to receive assistance, youth are going to have to participate in active job search strategies."

According to Wilkins, the government has made the first changes to youth welfare because recipients are "young, healthy and employable." Statistics also show that instances of welfare fraud are the most common in this age group.

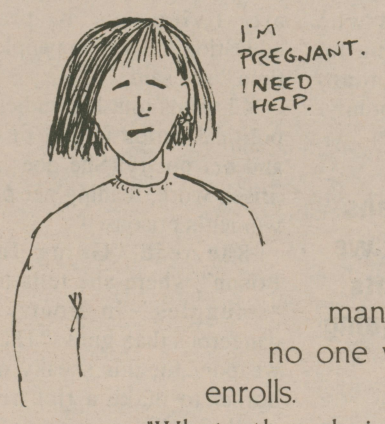
> "[Youth Works] ...er not get their $18- ...es and have to go ...h Works and ...her just scrape by."
> -Teresa Simon

But the most noticeable change is that social assistance for young people has been cut from a maximum of $546 per month to $500 per month. And in BC, where the cost of living is already the highest in Canada, a $46 cutback means a lot.

"They're not cuts, they're changes," Karen Johnson, a media spokesperson at the Ministry of Social Services was quick to emphasize.

Johnson said the savings from the rate changes, an estimated $48.9 million, are being used to fund new Youth Works training programs. This means that BC's lowest income group, social welfare recipients, are paying for 68 per cent of the NDP's new social programs.

The first phase in Youth Works is a series of training seminars to provide information on job market trends. Yet welfare



cuts came into effect in January, andthe first training seminar is not scheduled to take place in the Victoria area until March.

Although Youth Works is not a mandatory program for unemployed youth, no one will receive assistance unless she or he enrolls.

"What other choice do they have?" said one Social Worker, who did not want his name mentioned. "It's either live under the poverty line or comply with government policy to receive assistance."

Teresa Simon, 20, has decided to opt out of the Youth Works program.

Last year, while on welfare, Simon found a retail job through an alternate job finding program. Because the job only offered her part-time hours, she qualified for government assistance while she worked. Under Youth Works, however, she can only receive compensation up to $500, instead of a flat rate added to her fluctuating earnings.

Simon said she doesn't need the job-finding skills Youth Works is offering. "What I need is some assistance so that I can live comfortably," she said. She was able to find a second part-time job to help meet her costs.

Simon, who wears a button on her jacket that reads "war against poverty, not people," said "In retail it all depends on the economy. It's March. There aren't any hours in any retail job. Last week, after rent, food and bills, I came out only nine dollars ahead."

Wilkins has heard many cases similar to Simon's. "The kids' first reaction is 'my cheque has been cut, why?' They don't stop to think what the cuts might mean."

But Simon did not receive so much as a statement saying why her assistance was cut. "All I got was a small letter in the mail saying that this was the deal, I was never informed why or how."

"I've just ditched [Youth Works] altogether," said Simon. "I'd rather not get their $18-per-month cheques and have to go through Youth Works and everything," she said. "I'd rather just scrape by."

After participants have been in Youth Works for three months, a 25-per-cent "earnings exemption" comes into effect. The exemption allows part-time workers like Simon to keep 25 per cent of their earning on top of regular assistance for 12 months.

Michael Lancaster, who provides general information on BC Benefits, said only that the government "is trying to encourage people to get full-time employment, and receiving assistance does not encourage [youth] to leave the social safety net."

Simon was recently informed that one of the stores she works at is closing down. She may have no choice but to turn to the government for temporary assistance.

"I'm doing everything I can to find a full-time job," sayidSimon. "But it doesn't look like there are any jobs to be found."

"Youth Works doesn't make any sense," said Simon. "It keeps you at the poverty level. How are you supposed to save the capital necessary to support yourself if you're only making $500 per month?"

Mary Vallis is a Writing student at UVic

Chrystos mixes emotion, politics, and humour

by Calinda Brown

Chrystos
March 8
Cinecenta

Chrystos likes to take you by the hand and drag you along as she visits anger, sadness, love and humour.

Even when tired and recovering from the flu, as she was on March 8, Chrystos commands your attention.

After she was welcomed by Roberta Kennedy, a Haida-Squamish woman, with a traditional welcoming song, Chrystos dedicated her reading to the five hunger strikers who protested the lack of funding for First Nations post-secondary education for 20 days in February.

"So, it's true, lesbians have better sex. But we have more arguments about where we're going to have it."

"For those of you who don't understand the dynamic, treaties – in exchange for the land you all are living on – promised education for Native people for all time," she said.

Chrystos told her audience that political action is part of her life and her poetry. She does a lot of prison work, reading her poetry in women's prisons.

She read "Going Into the Prison" where she tells how she "smuggles" in poetry, more dangerous than guns. "The perfect weapon/ for this sneaky old war-horse/ to make a rich repast of revolution."

Most of her reading came from her latest book, *Fire Power*, covering many of the issues dear to Chrystos' life.

The mix of emotion and politics humour makes Chrystos an engaging read.

As a "Two-Spirited" woman, Chrystos writes many poems celebrating lesbianism. After she read "My Nickname is Miz FireEngine" Chrystos said, "so, it's true, lesbians have better sex. But we have more arguments about where we're going to have it."

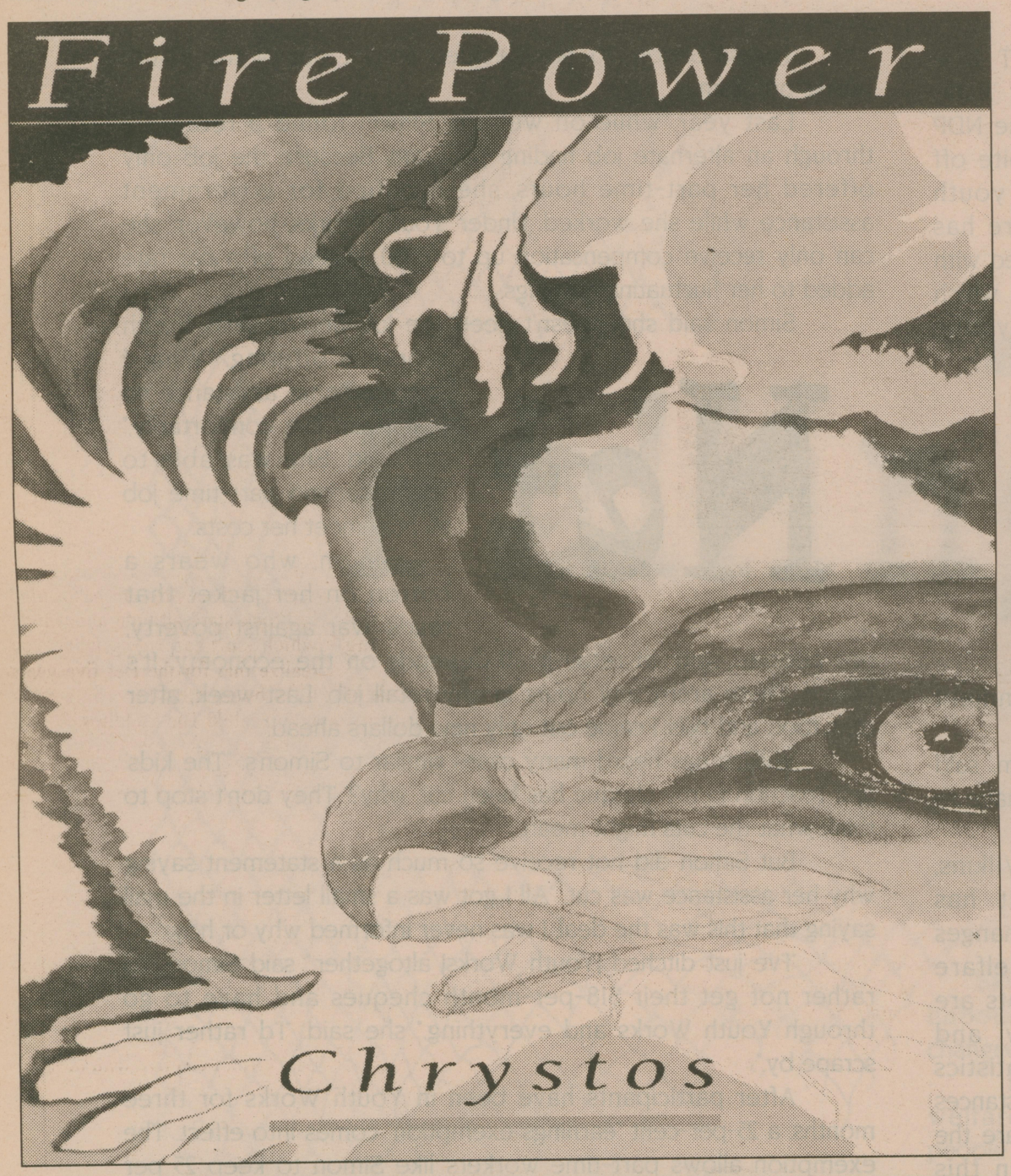
But celebration is only a part of her life as a Two-Spirited woman. Discrimination and hate make up another part, as many of her poems reveal. "There ain't enough / workin' class Butches / in this narrow world / You're the first ones they kill" (from "Rant in the Bloody Face of It").

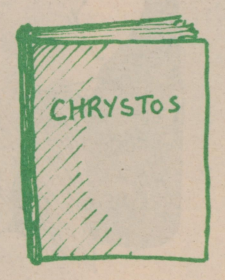
And as always, her First Nations life dominates her poetry. The audience favourite was the poem "Why Indian Employment is So High," with shouts of laughter following lines such as "there are just some things Indians aren't any good at / For instance, serial killing," which she read in a slow drawl.

Many of Chrystos' poems feature her anger towards white culture and white people's appropriation of First Nations' culture.

It ranges from the almost playful "ITCOTU" (I'm The Centre Of The Universe) to the full-on anger of "Rude as 2:29 A.M." – "I don't have time / to hate white folks."

The mix of emotion and politics and humour makes Chrystos an engaging read. ❑





"Langford"
Emily Carr

Carr sketches BC with gasoline, oil and paper

by Patricia Murray

Gasoline, Oil and Paper: Emily Carr's 1930 Sketches
Graham Gallery, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
until April 7

This art exhibit by Victoria's most famous artist, Emily Carr, is a must-see.

Carr is famous for her paintings of West Coast native people and British Columbia forests. All the oil sketches are of local scenes that can be found within an hour's drive of downtown.

The pieces were painted in the 1930s, when Carr's career regained prominence after a long hiatus.

The strong point of this exhibit is the use of a new medium: the combination of cheap manila paper, oil paint, and gasoline used as a thinner. This fast-drying substance enabled Carr to produce beautiful, expressive, abstract images of British Columbia's landscapes.

Carr's sketches of forests favour bold Fauve colours. This can be seen in "Forest Interior" (1932), which exemplifies her use of dynamic abstract solid forms to express her sense of nature, while her seascape scenes appear more impressionistic, with softer hues. The painterly, loose style of her brush work is most noticeable in her two works, "Sky" (1935), and "Sea and Sky" (1936) .

Carr was an incredibly gifted artist, quite radical in her time. Her paintings were mocked by the public for years before she became recognized as a modernist artist. In 1930, she became an honorary member of the Group of Seven.

Other paintings to watch out for are "Cordova Bay" (1931), "Broom, Beacon Hill" (1937), and "Langford" (1939).

The exhibit continuesfor another month at the Victoria Art Gallery. Admission is $3 for students, and free on Mondays.❑

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Performance poetry was hectic, loud and enthusiastic

by Shane Book

There was groaning. There was song. There was even some poetry.

Friday nights at the Grad Student's lounge at UVic are usually non-events, involving hushed debates over tall cold pints of Guinness.

Not with bill bissett and Sheri D. Wilson in the house. The two performance poets appeared as part of a fundraiser for the Writing Department's student journal *the Inner Harbour Review*.

Sheri D. Wilson's latest book is *Girl's Guide to Giving Head*. The title alone was good for a two -minute group snicker.

Sheri D. explained she'd just gotten out of the hospital after suffering from a severe case of pneumonia. You'd never have known it. She gave the audience an official tour through a whole range of techniques. Her act had everything: comedy, poignancy, some yodelling, and, above all, energy. Though her performance poetry was laced with gimmicks, none was too hard to swallow.

She began with her signature "I am a closet New Yorker," complete with Brooklynese accent and extravagant hand motions: "There are 8 million people living in my apartment...8 million sitting on my toilet seat... Makes you restless...I pack a piece when I'm home alone...."

Later came a primal scream of "DON'T FUCK WITH A FUCK!...Sometimes I get tough when I have to...." And she did.

If this sounds a little nuts, that's because it was. But there were moments of seriousness too. The poem Crowfusion was a meditation on death, with lines such as, "Crow hanging... upside... down... noosed by her eerie feet...."

Yet inevitably, Sheri D. approached her subjects from a humorous angle. Her poem, "This is not a love poem," took on the subject of Love – a topic poets too often botch. But she came at it directly, starting off with, "This is not a flaky fucked-up flirt-a-thon...I am not the queen of cute..." and continuing with, "I am not getting on that plane...Sam can't play our song again, because we never had one."

Sheri D. Wilson is something like a cross between an advertising jingle writer and a Rockette show queen, with a dash of poetic sensibility thrown in. And all this with the volume cranked to 10.

For the last line of her last poem, a piece about ovulation, she threw back her head and howled while the audience nodded "yes, yes, yes."

Then it was bill bissett's turn. He swooped down from the rafters of the GSS lounge where he too had been nursing an illness of some sort.

Nevertheless, Canada's king of lower case lettering was in top form. His commentary was punctuated by the ever present "excellent." As in, "How many people here had that projectile vomiting thing last month? Excellent. Did you ever wake up after three weeks of snoring with your head in the toilet bowl and say, I don't remember eating that?... Excellent."

He even gave the crowd one of his signature expressions, "Excellent. Raging. Very Cool." – which, to be used properly, must be said as though it were a checklist of categories and delivered in the voice of a 15 year old california surf punk, bissett's normal speaking voice.

The man who was introduced as "a person everyone should get to talk to once a day," began his set with a chanting, rambling, rattle-driven song, something about, "I'm eating filet mignon for breakfast to get through to you...," and "I'm too nervous to floss...."

The lyrics were hard to follow at times because of the speed at which they were sung, and because of the constant, loud rattle accompaniment. There was also bissett's high-pitched tonal grunt, which tended to pierce through to the foreground from time to time.

But when you're bill bissett, you can do these things. You can do anything you want. And that seemed to be bissett's credo for the evening. A song first, then a poem, then a song. Sometimes the lyrics or poems were read, other times they weren't. But he pulled it off. Bissett is, after all, an old pro — a man who's just published his 61st book of poetry, appropriately titled *the influenza of logic*. And he writes everything in his own hybrid version of English, to boot.

While sometimes the lines he read were hard to hear, it seemed that the point of his poetry was not necessarily the individual words. Bissett's work was more about tone, mood and feeling. Witness lines from one of his spoken word pieces: "Great. Fine... Get eaten by people they got it on with in the first place. Great. Fine."

With lines like, "I'm so gladiola to meet you..," and, "It's exciting to sit down on some log and hug some fast and disappearing time...," who can really be sure about anything?

One thing that's for certain is bissett is a rock star in the truest sense of the word. He has a kind of "rock star" attitude about him, which isn't surprising when you realize that for the last five years he's been the lead for a rock group called The Luddites.

Friday night was a hectic night in the GSS lounge. When bill bissett or Sheri D. went on a tear, there was nowhere to run. Their enthusiasm overtook the crowd.

Sheri D. Wilson and bill bissett, individually, are the two best performance poets in the country. But together on the same ticket they are a truly fierce pair of entertainers. As somebody remarked after the show, "If that's Canada's answer to Bobby McFerrin, I can live with it." ❑

Mr. Dressup rides into the sunset

by Mary Vallis

Interview with Ernie Coombs

Ernie Coombs lives his life in much the same manner as the character he created, Mr. Dressup. He greets each day as a new possibility.

"I sort of live my life for the moment and what I'm doing right now is the best thing I could be doing," said Coombs, who is retiring his television personality after 33 years.

Living for the moment has certainly paid off for Coombs. Mr. Dressup has remained a favourite children's program since it first aired on CBC in 1967.

Coombs has made a career of his character. In an age where children's programming is fast-paced and filled with instant animation, the simplicity of Mr. Dressup's show has remained popular among its preschool-aged viewers. This year, Coombs won a Gemini award for his contribution to Canadian children's programming; in 1994 he received the Earle Grey award for excellence in programming from the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.

Jim Byrd, the head of CBC English television, called Coombs "a cornerstone of children's television programming," and said that his contribution to the medium has been invaluable.

Coombs is shy about his success as a children's entertainer. "I'm basically just an actor," he said. "I just do what I do but I never expected to be doing if for a living. I never realized how much it meant to people until just recently."

Mr. Dressup and Ernie Coombs are similar in more ways than one. Coombs speaks slowly and clearly, looking straight into your eyes, making you understand. He is calm and collected, a man who knows his boundaries and clearly abides by them. But underneath his calm, restrained exterior, the hint of childhood excitement comes across, making a conversation with Coombs magical.

"I just try to be as real and sincere as possible when I'm talking to a guest, a puppet or the camera," said Coombs. "Mr. Dressup and I are pretty much the same person now. Over the years we've really melded together. I've gotten so identified with Mr. Dressup that it would be scary to wake up and just be me," Coombs chuckled.

"Luckily, when I started out, Mr. Dressup was just me doing things I like to do," said Coombs. "I didn't have any exaggerated behavior that I had to keep up. Dressing up was just my shtick, and I stuck to it."

Ernie Coombs, a.k.a. Mr. Dressup.

Coombs has remained committed to the CBC since his arrival to Canada in the 1960s. "I think it's a shame that the funding to the CBC is constantly being cut," he said. "The children's department is trying to get some new children's programs out there and they're just thwarted when they don't have any kind of a budget to work with."

Coombs is a strong believer that there is a distinct difference in the quality of American children's programming and CBC's own level of success with its preschool audience. "We tend to be more gentle and more caring about kids," said Coombs, "A lot more thought has gone into the production of children's shows in Canada. We hope to see more of our own kind and less of the imported stuff."

The last episode of Mr. Dressup was taped on February 14, 1996, and reruns are scheduled for a minimum of two years. He said he will do more touring with his stage show, telethons, and special events. Coombs has also released two children's albums and is promoting a new book of crafts.

And as for the tickle trunk? Coombs thinks it will probably end up at the CBC museum in Toronto, where the majority of memorabilia from retired shows is kept. Coombs jokes that some day visitors may come to see the Tickle Trunk and find him lying in it "in a state somewhat like Lenin." ❑

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Local filmmakers display wares at festival

by Sarah Gorlewski

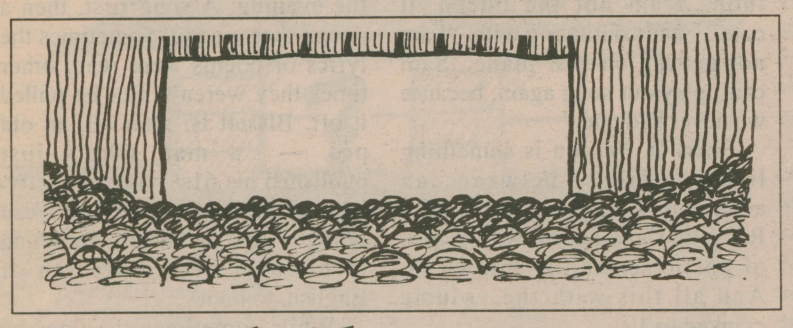
Victoria Independent Short Film and Video Festival
Various locations
March 26-28

From a documentary on the *Journey of a Kayak* to a look at *What's in a Puddle*, the upcoming Victoria Independent Short Film and Video Festival promises a varied selection of short works by local filmmakers.

The festival is in its second year. "It's getting bigger and bigger," said Michael Pineal, one of the organizers. "We hope it just keeps growing."

This year, festival participants will enjoy the addition of prizes in the form of trophies.

The festival is produced by the CineVic Society of Independent Filmmakers. The society formed two years ago to "create a resource pool for filmmakers, both materially and artistically," said Pineal.



The film portion of the festival consists of 11 short films and will play at Cinecenta March 27 and 28. The selections include the winner of the Best of Festival Film Award, *House of Cards* by James Fry, and the winner of the Gold Shortie for Narrative Film, *Full Service* by Todd Armitage.

The video portion will be held at Thursday's Sports Tap March 26 at 7 and 9pm, and on March 27 and 28 at 2:15pm. The winner of the Best of Festival-Video Award, *Watermelon* by David Strup, and the winner of the Gold Shortie for Experimental Video, *A Quick Up and Down* by Jules McLachlan, will be among the 22 videos shown.

Budgets for the production of the films and videos varied from next to nothing to tens of thousands of dollars, depending on the sources of funding.

The festival also includes two public forums at the Planet Theatre. "The Making and Marketing of Independent Films" featuring Sandy Wilson, director of *My American Cousin*, as well as two independent producers, starts at 2:30pm, March 26.

The second forum, "The Spider and The Web: How New Technologies Impact Independent Video," features Joe Sarahan, video and performance artist; Penny Joy, videographer and co-founder of MediaNet; and two filmmakers. This forum starts at 2:30pm on March 27.

Admission costs are nominal (regular Cinecenta admission for the films, $2 for the video screenings, and $3 for the forums).

The CineVic Society of Independent Filmmakers recently went on-line and acquired a website. "Now we're on the map," said Pineal. "It's one of the ways we're exploring growth." The society has started to get inquiries from abroad and hopes that next year's festival will include international entrants.❑

Lu Chi's Wen Fu timeless

by Zach LaPerriere

Wen Fu: The Art of Writing
by Lu Chi
translated by Sam Hamill
Breitenbush Books
1987

A good 1650 years before Strunk and Write published *The Elements of Style*, Lu Chi wrote "There are no new ideas, only those which rhyme with certain ideas."

Chi was one of the first authors of a how-to-write book. He wrote *Wen Fu: The Art of Writing*, near the end of the third century. *Wen Fu* is composed of a preface and 16 parts. It is perhaps a tenth as long as The Elements of Style, yet it speaks volumes more than all the how-to-write books that a writing major has to read in four years.

Chi calls writing "an entrance to the Mystery." On "The Early Motion" he says "the poet stands at the centre of the universe contemplating the Enigma. He draws sustenance from the masterpieces of the past."

Wen Fu includes advice on revision and other steps. Poe was perhaps a plagiarist: Chi writes in "the Key" that "The perfect word in the perfect place is a key to unlock the whole composition."

Not much has changed since Chi's time. "Though the writers of my generation produce in profusion," writes Chi, "all their real jewels cannot fill the cup I make of my empty hands."

Sell your jewel-less how-to-write books and find *Wen Fu*. You'll even recognize familiar lines, such as "when cutting an axe handle with an axe, surely the model is at hand."

Eat your heart out, Natalie Goldberg. ❑

Newcomer Hayden makes music out of monotony

by Andrew Musgrave

Everything I Long For
Hayden
Hardwood Records
1996

For those of you who like variety, be warned: every song on this album sounds the same.

That being said, *Everything I Long For*, Hayden's first release, isn't all that bad. The music gives the impression that he gets inspired during crummy days spent in his London, Ontario, garage with nothing to do. The album becomes more and more hypnotic the longer you listen to it.

Content to keep the tempo of his tunes at a snail's pace, Hayden somehow makes music out of monotony. Drums and bass guitar are used sparingly throughout; usually a guitar provides the only accompaniment to his singing.

The CD kicks off (or maybe crawls off) with "Bad As They Seem," a cement-slow song about finding love at a grocery store. From that track on, there is very little change of speed; he keeps up his style all the way to the end.

The only annoying part of the album comes at the very end, when seven minutes of dead space follows the final song, before giving way to some culinary advice from Hayden.

Despite the simple nature of the CD itself, which suggests he probably funded the whole thing with his weekly allowance, the music is of a quality at least as good as anything Canada's been producing lately.

The album's frugal nature might represent the future in Canada's music scene. Nine of the 16 tracks were originally recorded in his room. The cover credits only two other people; Hayden's producer doubles as his drummer.

Hayden, whose full name is Hayden Desser, is a relative newcomer to the Canadian music scene. MuchMusic started regularly playing his first video, *Bad As They Seem* last fall. ❑

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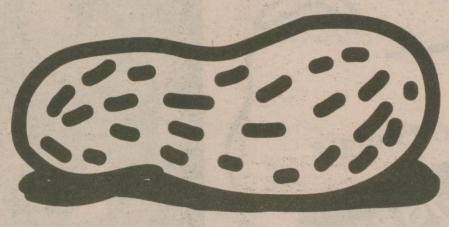

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Canada

Fri March 22

• School of Music Wind Symphony, 8 pm @ University Centre. Free.

• Celebrate diversity in Vertigo with the LGBA and Students of Colour. Canned music, 8 pm.

Sat. March 23

• *Merrily We Roll Along*, Phoenix Theatre, 8 pm.

• The Posies, Vertigo, 8pm. Cover.

• Composer's Concert – Student composers and student musicians @ Philip T. Young Recital Hall. 8 pm.

Wilson confident as he takes men's soccer Vikes into Spring Cup

by Mike Chilton

With last weekend's solid win under their belts, the men's Vikes soccer team go into their final action of the season, the Spring Cup, with the confidence a strong second half brings.

Saturday, March 16, the Vikes played the Alberta Under-20s in Vancouver, a game in which the Vikes had one of their best results of the year, posting a 6-1 win against the Alberta squad.

"We got a tremendous offensive effort this season."

"It was one of our better games, as far as goals for," said coach Bruce Wilson, "the scoring was well spread out among the whole team."

Scorers for the Vikes were Dean Anderson, Maurizio Conforti, Simon Vickers, Brent Garraway, Rob Greaves and Morley Chapchuk.

Up until, and including, last weekend's action, the Vikes' stats have been fairly impressive: 90 goals for and only 27 goals against in 34 games, which breaks down to an average of three goals a game, and an average of less than one goal against per game.

The Vikes men's soccer squad hopes to carry the momentum of a strong second half into the Spring Cup. The tournament represents the final action of the season for both the men and women Vikes.

Don Lobb photo

"We got a tremendous offensive effort this season," said Wilson.

A look at the top scorers' list gives a good explanation of the Vikes' explosive offensive punch throughout the season: Vickers leads the scoring with 17 goals, Garraway is second with 16, Anderson recorded a dozen goals to take third place, and JJ Atterbury is fourth with 9 goals.

In addition to impressive offensive production, combined with marked defensive stinginess, the Vikes also posted a very respectable 21-3-10 final record, which includes the win from last Saturday.

Coach Wilson was clearly elated that his team was undefeated in the second half of the season, with a 10 win, 3 tie record.

"The fact that we can play 36 games in a season indicates how great our location is here (in Victoria)," said Wilson. "We're always playing good teams."

Some of the competition returns to Victoria on the March 23-24 weekend, as the men and women Vikes host the season's end Spring Cup at Centennial Stadium.

The men's pool is particularly skillful at this tournament. A semi-pro team from Washington State called Everett Bigfoot plays a longer season than any other team in the pool, and should show a strong finish. The SFU squad, which was last year's Spring Cup men's winner, contains five Olympic players in the roster and will also be a force to contend with.

The men's pool is particularly skillful at this tournament.

Saturday's action starts at 10 am with the first women's match, which pits UBC against Caribou College. The first men's action is at noon, as the Vikes take on SFU. The 2 pm game sees the UBC men dig in against Everett Bigfoot. Saturday's final contest sees the Vikes women take the field again, in a match against Seattle University.

On Sunday, the follow-up action takes place. The first match at 10 am is the women's consolation match, deciding third and fourth place. The men's consolation game follows at noon, then the women's and men's finals take place at 2 pm and 4 pm respectively.

MARTLET HOCKEY POOL UPDATE -- AS OF MARCH 19, 1996

	G	A	PTS		G	A	PTS		G	A	PTS
GEOFFREY PETERS	286	594	880	JAMES J. SCHLICHTER	280	546	826	RICHARD ELLIOT	268	513	781
BEN HARRISON	297	576	873	JASON HOLLAND	309	515	824	TRACY RONMARK	313	449	762
LUCAS AYKROYD	285	587	872	SEAN EVANS	305	519	824	JAMIE GENGE	278	484	762
SCOTT MANNING	301	560	861	SCOTT ALLEN	304	517	821	JENNIFER ORR	295	466	761
COLIN DUNCANSON	283	575	858	DAINA BRONS	275	546	821	JASON LAKE	252	490	742
WEST MUNDY	288	564	852	PATRICK McCAULEY	308	499	807	D. TAZ	267	461	728
JEFF STEWART	305	544	849	PANO SKRIVANOS	274	533	807	DEAN CHAN	275	447	722
ROBERT FONTANA	307	538	845	PAUL PATTERSON	291	503	794	BYRON KERR	278	440	718
JOHN LYALL	332	509	841	RANDY QUAST	295	497	792	JENNIFER BOYLE	223	488	711
PAUL CLARKSTON	305	533	838	GEORGE PRINGLE	243	548	791	MIKE CHILTON	MISSING IN ACTION (BUT WHO ARE WE KIDDING, WE ALL KNOW HE'S LAST)		
DAVID LOCKSTEND	298	533	831	MAGNUS THYVOLD	302	487	789				
VICTOR CHANG	292	535	827	CRAIG LLOYD	237	549	786				
MURRAY ANDERSON	293	533	826	DARRYL SKENDER	302	482	784				

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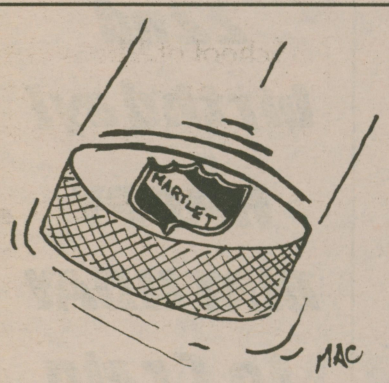

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Scenes from last weekend's UVic 5k mini-marathon

A pack of runners in an early lap of the March 17 5km run around Ring Road. Pictured are (l to r) Mike Mullaly, Mike Creery and John Crouch. Each of these runners finished first in their age category -- 39th, 37th and 47th places overall, respectively.

Jason Holland photo

UVic runner, Neal Beattie, accepting the trophy for his first-place finish in the 5k run.

Jason Holland photo

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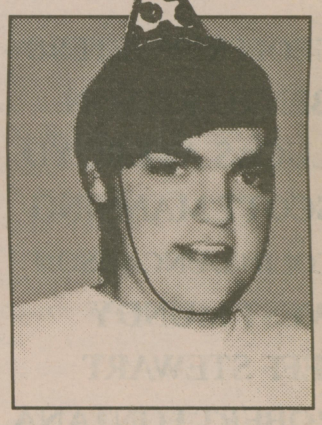

You would too, if it was your 22nd birthday!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Craig "Scourge" Lloyd from "Spike" and the rest of the Martleteers!

Upcoming Sports Events

Saturday, March 23

FENCING

The University of Victoria Fencing Club hosts the BC Fencing Championships at the Gordon Head Complex. The event will feature many local fencers.

SOCCER

Men's and Women's Soccer Spring Cup at Centennial Stadium. Day 1 game schedule is as follows:

10 a.m.
Women's: Cariboo vs UBC
Noon
Men's: Vikes vs SFU
2 p.m.
Men's: UBC vs Everett
4 p.m.
Women's: Vikes vs Seattle U.

Sunday, March 24

FENCING

The BC Fencing Championships hosted by the UVic Fencing Club continue at the Gordon Head Complex.

SOCCER

Men's and Women's Soccer Spring Cup continues at Centennial Stadium.

Spring Cup day 2 game schedule is as follows:

10 a.m.
Women's consolation game
Noon
Men's consolation game
2 p.m.
Women's final
4 p.m.
Men's final

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For more information about our Guarantee for Youth, call 1-800-637-5455.

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A *Guarantee* For Youth.

• March 22 •

Celebrate the Diversity of UVic: Vertigo 8 p.m.-closing. Latin, Caribbean, and Bungara dance music. Anti-racism week event put on by the Students of Colour group. $5, Proceeds will fund anti-racism week '97, and the Students of Colour bursary fund.

• March 21, 22 •

Red Cross Blood donor clinic. 9:30-3:30 in the foyer of the University Centre. All donors are required to produce I.D.

• March 23 •

Don't miss UVic's multi talent Night! This annual extravaganza is hosted by the association of International & Canadian students. 7pm, SUB multi purpose room. $5 @ the door.

UVic photo club. Last general meeting-Year in review "**Party**"! (with food and Drink) Bring some photos or slides to share. Everyone welcome, Clearihue A311 7:30pm. 7pm executive meeting.

• March 27 •

There will be a workshop for international students returning to their home countries after an extended stay in Canada. Coordinated by Trish Brooke, International Student Advisor. 7pm, University Centre B238. Info 721-8743.

• March 28 •

The UVic Latin American Association is presenting guest speaker Dr. Richardo Navarro from El Salvador. He will be giving a talk entitled "Militarism and the Environment." Maclaurin D101, 3:30. Everyone welcome.

• March 29 •

The 140 voice Victoria Choral society conducted by Bruce Moore of theUVic school of music will perform at Metropolitan United church. Proceeds will go towards church restoration. Also appearing is a VIVA children's choir, percussion ensemble and duo pianists Eva and William Kinderman. Tickets $6/$12.

• March 30 •

The early music society of the islands presents "Consort of the Islands". The consort is under the joint musical direction of Ingrid Mathews and Byron Schenkman. The works to be performed are by Bach, Handel, Elisabeth Jacqet de la Guerre and Leclair. 8 pm St. John's church, 1611 Quadra. Tickets are available at Munro's books, Musical Friends, and at the door, $7/$14. Info 592-6582.

Performance Poetry Reading followed by the music of Cozy Bones. Doors open at 8 pm $5 students, $7 others. Multi-purpose room.

• March 31 •

The congregation of Victoria Church of Religious Science invites you to celebrate with us in attending the installation of our minister, Reverend Carolyn B. Holland on Sunday at 11:00am, 3281 Harriet Road O.E.S. hall. The Reverend Doctor Ernest J. Forks Officiating. Reception. Reception Immediately following.

• Ongoing •

Look '96 South Island's regional art show, an exciting potpourri of visual arts March 16-24 1996, 12-8pm at Sanscha hall, Beacon Ave. Sidney. Works from this show will be chosen for the B.C. Festival of Fine Arts. Free admission and Parking.

Canada Taiwan scholarship program--The Taipei Economic and cultural office in Canada is offering full scholarships to Canadians to undertake Mandarin language training in Taiwan in 96/97 acedemic year **April 10** is the application deadline. Info: Ms. Susanne Morrisette, Administrative Assistant to International programs, Associate of Universities & Colleges of Canada, Rm. 600, 350 Albert St. Ottawa ONT. K1R1B1. 613-563-1236. FAX 613-563-9745.E-MAIL smorriss@VCC.ca

Notices

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of your peers and yourself? If so, join the **UVic Date Rape and Dating Violence Education Project** and help promote safe and healthy sexual relationships through education and activism. Open to women and men. Meetings on Fridays at 1:30 in SUB 137A or contact the Women's Centre @ 721-8353 for more exciting details.

Services

EXCELLENTWORD PROCESSING skills available. Fast, accurate processing of theses, essays, manuscripts, résumés, etc. REASONABLE rates and DEPENDABLE service. Can pick up and deliver. Call Mrs. Liggett 658-0980.

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Cheap rate for students. 1 man with truck, $15/hr. for UVic students. Brian 472-7243.

Looking forward to doing your taxes? If you're not, call Scott at 360-2752 for your income tax worries. Refunds in as few as 10 days. Includes e-filing and no GST.

Primitive Lifeskills Ancient fire, shelter, tools, awareness etc. Instructor Wes Geitz was taught by Tom Brown. Info: 478-3110.

Scotland Tour of Adventure. Hiking, walking, partying. After exams April 26-May 4. Hostels-Castles-B&B-Farmhouses. Flexibility, do your own thing plus travel together. Small group .$1850, cost includes airfare, B&B and touring. For info call 391-1269/744-1881 evenings.

Late night at the Planet Theatre. Top Floor Eaton's Centre. Spilt Milk Comedy Theatre 10:00 p.m. Fridays. For reservations call 479-3374. $5/$8.

STOLEN: Classical guitar built by Joe Poshek. Taken from the music school, February 12 at approximately 4 p.m. Any information about this heinous crime would be appreciated. Call *the Martlet* @721-8360 .

LOST My mother's tiny gold watch/metal expanding band in SUB washroom during international woman's week (March 4-8) Sentimental Value. Reward. 721-7243.

I FOUND your jacket at Multipurpose Rm. in SUB March 8. 380-7949.

Looking for business-minded students to manage summer businesses in Victoria, Campell River, Vancouver, Fraser Valley and Kitimat. Call 727-9994. For more info. Average Summer Income $9,000-$10, 000.

Dog and cat **looking for a clean apartment to rent** . Will include one well-trained human. Matt 385-0170

Experienced tree planters! Applications are now being accepted for our 1996 season. Experienced planters and brushers are encouraged to apply. Justin Spearing, 604-635-1971. Little Trees Reforestation Inc. Box 47 Terrace BC V8G4A2.

Psssssssssst

• Happy mildly late, we didn't forget the martlet refused to alter their production schedule the bastards birthday scrappy. xoxox yer loving admirers.

• pesto, i look forward to meeting you. i've heard a lot about you. i'll be the one with the purple leash.

• Captain Slooch, it's yer birthday and you can cry if you want to. i hope the carrot cake and other treats make you as happy as a little clam. xoxo goob.

• kiya, that wacked-out goddess of darkness went on a purification binge. can you imagine kiya doing anything more fucked. she had even given up caffeine.

• the mice ran under the couch in terror. they heard the stomping of lucy. not only was she stomping again, she also had traps.

•You spoke of salt spray and stilt-braced houses. Tell me more...I'm a Newfie by blood you know. Coffee? You know the #.

VIPIRG

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

wednesday, april 3, 1996
4:30 to 6:30 pm
new student union building, uvic

(Free, Hearty Dinner Provided!)

vancouver island public interest research group

AGENDA

- what vipirg is all about.
- committee and financial reports.
- pooling ideas for a new constitution.
- forming next year's committees and next year's coordinating collective.
- planning for summer and next year.

ELECTIONS

At this year's AGM, eight people will be elected to VIPIRG's Coordinating Collective. The Coordinating Collective, like a traditional "Board of Directors," is accountable for all decisions made by VIPIRG, but its primary role is to help the members of VIPIRG do what they want to do, as long as what they want fits within VIPIRG's mandate. All persons with the interest, time, dedication to serve on the Collective are eligible to be on the Coordinating Collective. Candidates will be elected through a consensus of all VIPIRG members present at the meeting.
Nomination forms, together with more information, are available outside VIPIRG's office, located in SUB 144, across from Cinecenta. Telephone 721-8629.

SUB 144 ACROSS FROM CINECENTA 721-8629

VIPIRG is an autonomous, non-profit, non-partisan organization which conducts research, education, and action upon issues of social and ecological justice. It is funded by you, the undergraduate students of UVic through a semesterly levy of $3.50/student.

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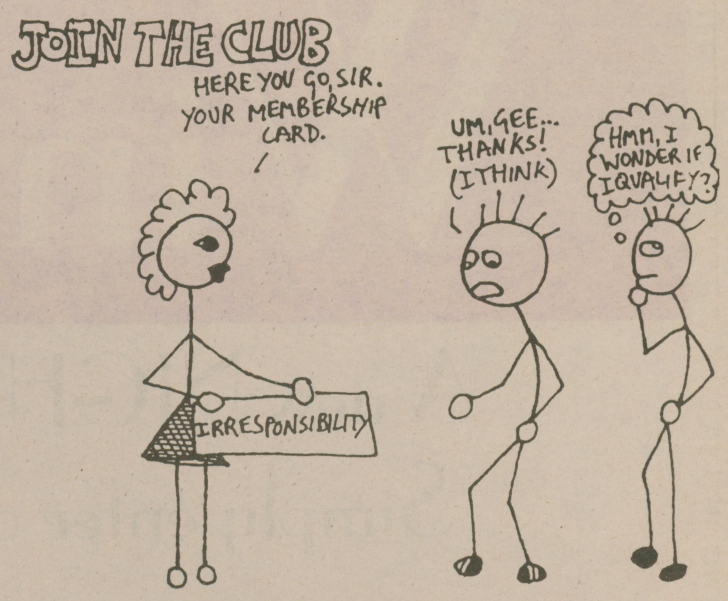
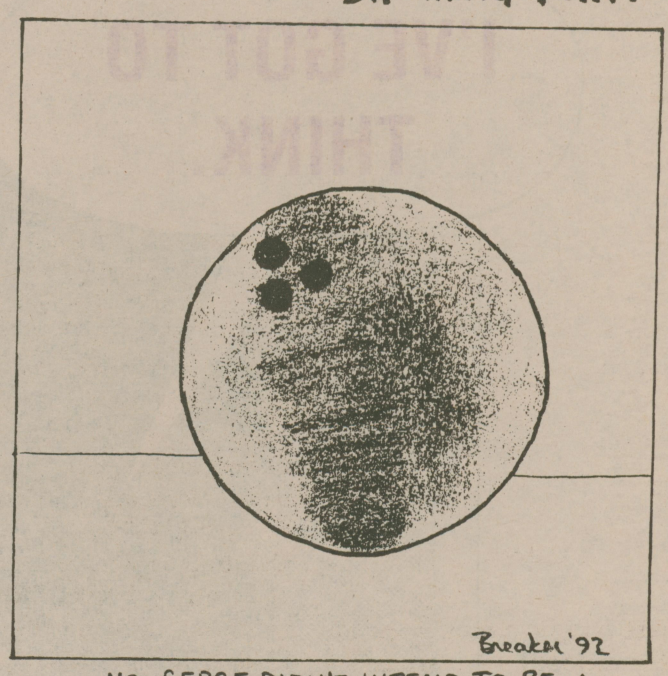
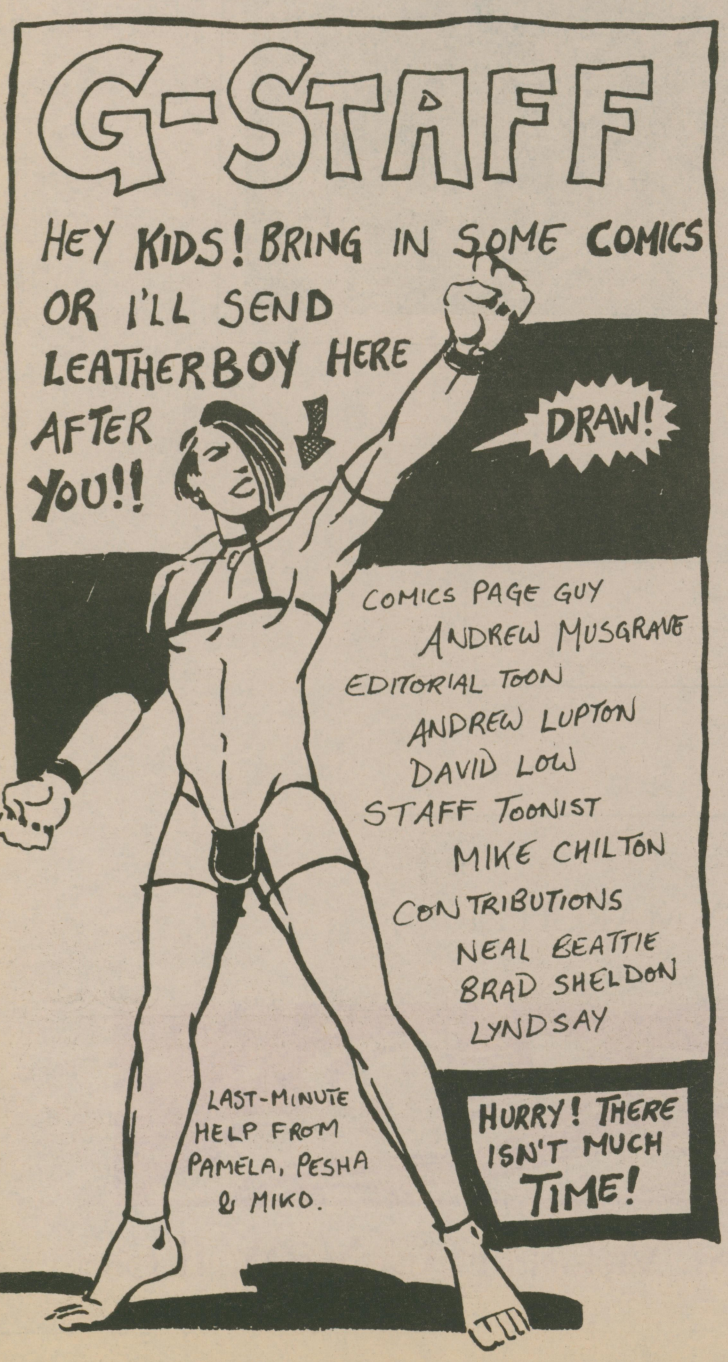
SUISSE
EUROTOUR '96
April 30 - May 20
June 22 - July 12
July 13 - Aug. 2
Ph. 744-3001
Far & Away ADVENTURES INC.

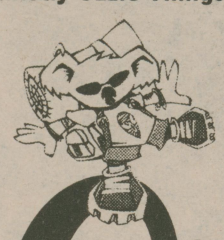




NO, SERGE DIDN'T INTEND TO BE A BOWLING BOWL FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE. YOU SEE, HE KNEW THAT IF HE COULD JUST CONTROL HIS WEIGHT PROBLEM, HE MIGHT MAKE THE OLYMPICS AS A SHOTPUT.



Distinctly Ozzie Things to Do Go walkabout • fossick for gold or gems • trek the Great Dividing Range • relive bush ranger history • have fun at an Aussie festival • corroboree with the indigenous people • cuddle a koala • eat vegemite • forage for and eat bush tucker • spend Christmas Day on the beach • learn how to become a jackaroo or jillaroo • bungy jump in a tropical rain forest • white water raft in the Tasmanian wilderness • sail on a tall ship through the Whitsunday Passage and its 74 pristine islands • mountain bike through the brush • horse trek through the Man from Snowy River country •



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- 15 nights accommodation at YHA hostels

The Oz Experience — $1635

- Return airfare
- Oz Experience Bus Pass "Bruce Pass" – Sydney to Cairns

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